

Thousands face jail or execution in China

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said Wednesday that thousands of Chinese faced execution or long jail sentences after last June's military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations. The human rights group accused China of using mass arbitrary arrests, torture, summary trials and executions. It appealed to Premier Li Peng to halt what it called a continuing wave of repression and stop using executions as a political tool. Amnesty said it had asked the United Nations to take "effective action" to combat human rights violations in China. "Amnesty International has appealed to the international community to try to protect the thousands of Chinese who face execution or long-term imprisonment after unfair trials in the wake of the June massacres," the London-based group said. China has denied any massacre of demonstrators by its troops, saying that the army cleared protesters peacefully from Peking's Tiananmen Square on the night of June 3 to 4.

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Fuel tanker hit off Lebanese coast French envoy brings peace plan to Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — French envoy Francois Scheer brought a peace plan to Lebanon Tuesday after a night of ferocious shelling set ablaze a blockade-busting tanker off the war-exhausted country's coast.

The peace mission came as militias warned Pope John Paul II to abandon the idea of visiting devastated Beirut, where Scheer was to meet rival Christian and Muslim leaders.

Syrian troops and allies and forces loyal to army commander Michel Aoun, locked in a five-month-old duel, pounded the city overnight. Shelling struck a tanker six miles off Jounieh port.

Nine crewmen were listed as missing while two were rescued badly burned from the sea.

Black smoke billowed over the sun shield, hit while making a hazardous weekly run to the besieged Aoun enclave with a cargo of 2.6 million litres of petrol.

Tugs fought flames on board the tanker, which was earlier stopped by gunboats and told stay clear. The tanker was initially identified by Lebanese sources as Sea Shell and Sea Shield.

Sources said the shelling on land was the fiercest for two weeks. One man was killed and eight people were wounded before the battles died away at dawn.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), said a papal visit could set back the search for peace in Lebanon. Fadlallah had previously supported the visit.

"It will be exploited by a party for its own interests... the Lebanese crisis is too complicated to be solved by the Pope's visit," he told Reuters in an interview.

On Monday the national front, a coalition of 18 militias, warned the Pope not to come to Beirut.

Scheer, who arrived by helicopter from talks in Damascus with President Hafez Al Assad, was to meet Aoun in his battered presidential palace in east Beirut.

He told reporters later: "Peace still has all the chances. All the parties I've met believe that there is no military solution to the problem in Lebanon. I've heard this in Damascus and I hear it now in Beirut."

Scheer was expected to cross Beirut's dividing green line later Tuesday for talks with Muslim leaders.

Diplomatic sources said Scheer was seeking agreement on a three-stage peace plan that envisages a ceasefire with an embargo on all arms deliveries to the warring factions, political reforms to distribute power equally between Christians and Muslims and the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces.

Syria has 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate, which the Christians say Damascus has abrogated by openly siding with the Muslims. Israel occupies a border strip in South Lebanon.

Muslim and leftist radio stations, which reflect the thinking of Syria and its allies, have rejected the blueprint.

The Saudi Al Yamma weekly quoted Aoun as accepting moves for a ceasefire, but rejecting Syrian demands to patrol the coastline.

Diplomats in Damascus said France's plan stood little chance of winning the crucial backing of Syria, who suspects Paris of sympathising with Aoun.

Damascus was enraged by the arrival this month of French warships off the Lebanese coast. Pro-Syrian militias threatened to attack them and they withdrew.

Aoun vowed in March that his 15,000 troops would drive Syria's 33,000 troops out of the country even if Beirut were flattened.

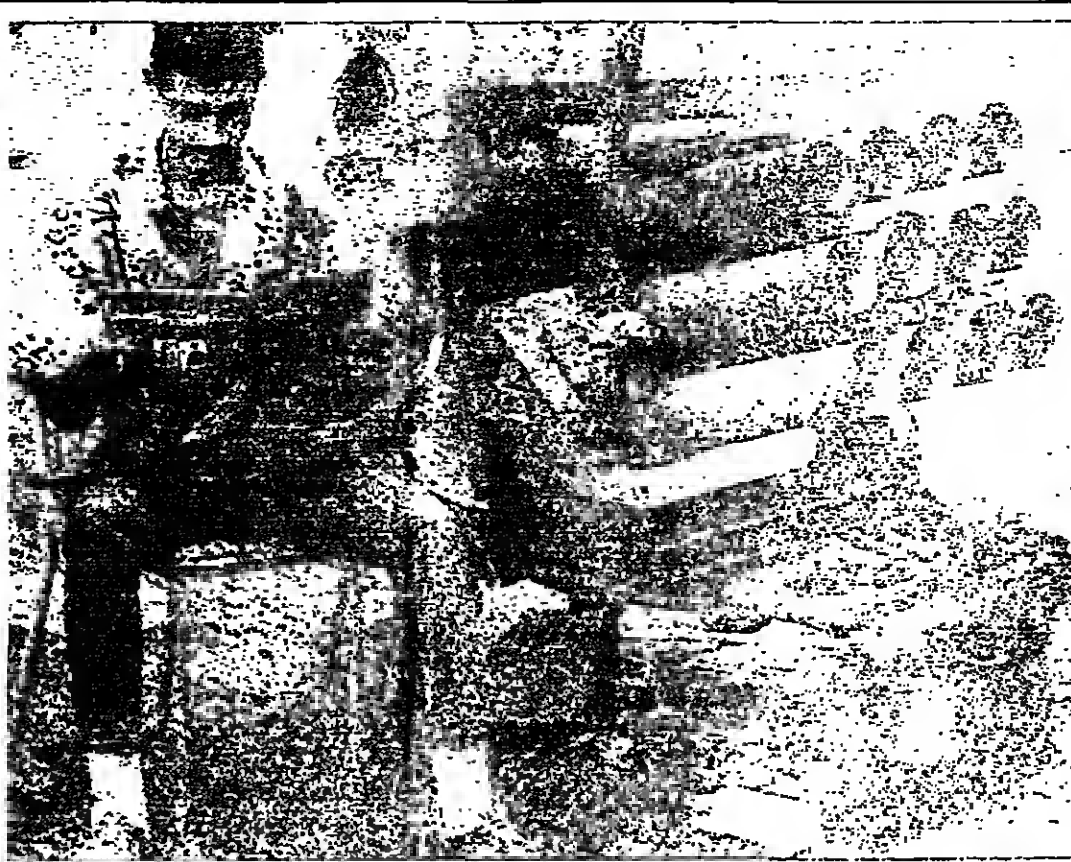
Syria has not commented on Assad's talks with Scheer, but said earlier a solution to Lebanon's 14-year-old war should be worked out by Arab countries.

Scheer is due to visit Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, which have said their efforts to negotiate an end to the war have reached a dead end.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has sent Iran a message about the situation in Lebanon and the dispatch of French warships to the area, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday.

It said French Ambassador Christian Graeff delivered the message to Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi, who said military threats would not solve the Lebanese crisis.

Vaezi said negotiations were needed to bring a real democracy to Lebanon in which the wishes of the majority were respected.



A militiaman takes a break from his post at a rocket launcher in west Beirut's green line

Nabulsi: No mediation with Chalabi under consideration

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) governor Monday categorically dismissed as "untrue" a British radio report that the government was considering mediation aimed at reaching a compromise deal with "fugitive" banker Ahmad Chalabi, who has fled the country leaving behind a complicated web of financial transactions involving Petra Bank which he headed.

"No, there is no truth to it whatsoever," CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Tuesday. "There is no mediation effort."

The report, carried by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Arabic service, had said that a former member of the board of directors of Petra Bank was offering to "mediate" between the government and Chalabi, whose present whereabouts are unknown.

Abdul Karim Kabariti, a major shareholder of Petra Bank who was removed from the board after the government ordered the merger of Petra Bank with the Jordan Gulf Bank in the first week of this month, was not immediately available for comment.

The report had quoted Kabariti as contending that Chalabi's cooperation was essential to determining the bank's assets, liabilities and involvement in various non-banking activities, said to include controlling interest in at least 36 companies in Jordan.

He was also quoted as in the reported interview that the livelihood of nearly 3,000 people employed by these companies, and their families were threatened by a possible credit

cancellation.

The companies are believed to have been bought by Chalabi but the shares were registered under different names thus making it more difficult to reveal the bank's actual ownership of these firms.

"If we cannot bring people (Chalabi's alleged front men or women) to give up their shares (in these companies to Petra Bank), it would be an impossible situation," he was quoted as saying.

"No problems in merger"

However, Nabulsi and a member of the caretaker management of Petra Bank rejected that Chalabi's cooperation was important in sorting out Petra Bank's dealings and advance the merger process, ordered by the Economic Security Committee under martial law provisions. "There is no problem of implementation of the merger," said Nabulsi. "Whether (Chalabi) is here or not, it doesn't make any difference."

"When we appointed him to the supervisory committee (the caretaker management pending the merger) we took into consideration that he could be helpful, but he didn't have any intention to help the bank," said the Central Bank governor. "He fled the country illegally."

Jawad Al Anani, a member of the supervisory committee, said he had heard nothing of the alleged mediation. "I have not heard anything about it," he told the Jordan Times. "In any case, we are more concerned with securing more information on the bank's affairs, whether it comes from Chalabi or anyone else."

The committee has already made major headway into collecting information and disentangling the Petra Bank puzzle.

ze, Anani said. "It will be good if the man who used to run the bank is here, but it is not crucial," he said.

Iraqi-born Chalabi went "missing" shortly after the merger order. He denied later that he left illegally.

The Economic Security Committee said last week that it had removed Chalabi from the supervisory committee. It was the first statement released by the government on the affair after the banker left the country. It said the decision was taken as a result of the banker's "departure (from the country) through illegitimate means" and that he could be prosecuted if investigations found that he violated any law.

Possible prosecution

Nabulsi reaffirmed Tuesday that Chalabi faced possible prosecution. "We are trying to find out if any wrongdoings occurred," he said. "When the facts are known and if evidence of wrongdoing is found, we will prosecute him wherever he is," he said.

The governor said auditors had already started scrutinising the books of accounts of Petra Bank in Amman as well as a branch it owns with 70 per cent controlling interest in Washington, D.C. "We have taken over the management of Petra Bank in Washington," Nabulsi said. "Deputy CBJ Governor Michael Marto is now in charge of the management at Petra Bank, Washington, D.C."

Meanwhile, informed sources said Petra Bank's Visa cards were no longer being honoured outside Jordan since Monday. According to the source, the suspension went into effect Monday pending a new agreement between Visa Card International and Petra Bank.

Arafat, Arens likely to visit Japan

TOKYO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens are both likely to visit Japan later this year, Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Tuesday. The sources said that Arafat was likely to come in October and Arens in November. Exact dates were not set, they said. On what would be Arafat's second trip to Japan he would have talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, they said. The PLO leader was last in Japan in 1981. Arens' visit, first to Japan by an Israeli foreign minister for about four years, is to repay a visit by then Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno in June last year. Japan has diplomatic relations with Israel and while it does not recognise the PLO permits it to have a representative office in Tokyo.

Israelis kill 1, destroys 4 homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 27-year-old Palestinian, and the army demolished or sealed four houses of men suspected of throwing firebombs or planting explosive devices.

Six Palestinians also were reported shot and wounded in clashes between soldiers and stone-throwing youths in the occupied Gaza Strip, reports said.

Also in Gaza, the occupation army issued an order requiring Palestinians to have special permits to have fax machines, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

The order follows reports the machines were used by the leaders of the 20-month uprising to distribute leaflets calling for strikes and protests against Israel.

The Israeli daily Haaretz called on the government to reverse the order, saying it will be viewed abroad as interference in civilian communication and could harm Israel's image.

"Outlawing the popular, civilian communications machine will obviously serve as a juicy news item throughout the world," Haaretz said in an editorial.

In Gaza City, Ismail Ibrahim Abu Jayyab was shot in the head by soldiers after a firebomb was thrown at a military vehicle nearby and as youths were stoning soldiers, witnesses told reporters.

Abu Jayyab died after being brought by the army to the government-run Shifa Hospital, hospital officials said.

The army said it demolished three Arab homes and sealed another near Bethlehem in the West Bank overnight.

An army spokesman said troops destroyed two homes in Beit Sahour village belonging to brothers accused of throwing firebombs at vehicles and setting fire to an army truck.

In Askar village, the army demolished one home and sealed another belonging to Palestinians they said were suspected of having planted a bomb on the road to the Jewish settlement of Elon Moreh in 1988.

The Palestinians had not been formally indicted but lost appeals to the Israeli supreme court to block the demolitions and sealing, the spokesman said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, an Israeli military court jailed a Palestinian for five years and a second for nine months after both men admitted throwing petrol bombs at troops, Israeli radio said.

The court jailed a Gazan for four years for membership of Force 17, a guerrilla force in the mainstream Fatah group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

News of Abu Jayyab's death sparked violent demonstrations in several parts of Gaza. By mid-afternoon, hospitals reported at least seven Palestinians were wounded in clashes in Khan Younis and Gaza City.

Fifteen Palestinians have died in the last 10 days in a surge of violence following pledges by the uprising's underground leaders to intensify the revolt.

At least 617 Palestinians have been killed since the uprising erupted in December 1987.

GCC urges regional peace, vows support for intifada

NICOSIA (R) — Six Gulf Arab foreign ministers ended two days of talks in Saudi Arabia Tuesday by issuing a statement which failed to mention their uneasy relations with Iran.

The statement by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers stressed a need to end violence in Lebanon, reach a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq and support the Palestinian uprising.

Diplomats had earlier said the ministers — from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — would consider recent changes in Tehran's leadership and the possibility of improving relations.

The Iranian parliament wound up a three-day debate endorsing the cabinet proposed by new President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who dropped the most anti-Western hardliner from his team.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia,

the only GCC state without ties with Iran, wanted real proof of moderation in Tehran before it would accept any improvement in relations.

U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq have made almost no progress since a ceasefire last August ended their eight-year war.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal briefed the GCC ministers on efforts by his country, Algeria, and Morocco to end 14 years of civil war in Lebanon.

The three-nation Arab League committee said last month its attempts to bring peace to Lebanon had reached a dead end, but it has since come under regional and international pressure to resume its mediation mission.

One official said the ministers discussed a report by Major-General Yousef Madani, in charge of GCC military affairs, on regional security. He did not elaborate.

Majlis okays entire Rafsanjani cabinet

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's parliament (Majlis) Tuesday approved all 22 nominations to President Hashemi Rafsanjani's new cabinet, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, described the vote of confidence by the 270-member parliament for all the candidates as "unprecedented."

The vote came after Rafsanjani got a last-minute boost for his proposed cabinet Tuesday from radical Majlis Speaker Hemdi Karrubi.

"I see Mr. Rafsanjani's cabinet as a successful one and one that supports the deprived... and whose members have worked hard for the revolution," Karrubi was quoted as saying by IRNA.

He told parliament, on the third day of a debate on Rafsanjani's cabinet: "It is a cabinet that has experience, proficiency, competence and faith with full revolutionary credentials."

Karrubi's support was seen as critical for Rafsanjani, 55, who was elected by a landslide vote July 28, after two days of debate in which some of his nominees have come in for severe criticism from radical deputies.

Karrubi, a hardline radical who has advocated the violent spread

of Iran's Islamic revolution, is allied to Rafsanjani's rivals.

But he apparently has fallen in line with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, who last week urged parliamentary deputies to set aside political and personal differences and approve Rafsanjani's cabinet to ensure a smooth transition from the outgoing government of Prime Minister Hussein Musavi.

The closest vote was 143 to 97 for the minister of housing and urban development, Serajeddin Kazerani, a hold-over from the previous administration.

The biggest majority was 242 to 10 for Akbar Torjan, a newcomer to the cabinet who takes over the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics.

Votes on each candidate were taken at the end of a three-day debate broadcast live and heard by listeners in Tehran.

Rafsanjani closed the debate with a strong rebuke to critics. "If I didn't know you," he told them, "my suspicion would arise that the aim was to paralyse the cabinet because all the pressure was concentrated on four or five persons."

Without the criticised ministers, he said, the government would face serious problems running the country.

Arafat may seek U.S. visa to address U.N.

WASHINGTON (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman in Washington has said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was considering seeking U.S. permission to address the United Nations in September or November.

But the White House and the State Department said they were not aware of any visa application by Arafat and declined to say whether he would be allowed to enter the United States to address the world body.

Former Secretary of State George Shultz denied Arafat a visa last year to speak before the U.N., but since then the PLO has renounced terrorism and the United States has opened a dialogue with PLO representatives.

PLO spokesman Hassan Abdul Rahman said it was likely that Arafat would want to speak before the United Nations either at the General Assembly in September or at the annual debate on Palestine in November.

His purpose would be to inform the world body of developments in the Middle East peace

process over the past year, the PLO spokesman said.

After the United States denied Arafat a visa last year the United Nations moved its debate on Palestine to Geneva. In December Arafat denounced terrorism and Washington opened talks with PLO representatives.

Clovis Maksoud, ambassador to the United States for the Arab League, said he assumed the visa would be granted in light of the changes in relations in the past year. If not, the United Nations would probably move its meeting to Geneva again, he said.

"The assumption is the head of the PLO has a right of access to the U.N. General Assembly because the General Assembly decided to grant the PLO observer status," Maksoud said in a telephone interview.

White House spokesman Roman Popaduk told reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine, where President George Bush is on holiday: "We have not had any indication through formal channels or any other means that Mr. Arafat would be seeking a visa."

OIC urges pressure on Israel

JEDDAH (AP) — Hamid Al Gabid, head of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Tuesday urged the U.N. secretary general and the five permanent Security Council members to pressure Israel.

Gabid, responding to the expulsion of five Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories, said Israel "had to be forced to respect U.N. resolutions... and the rights of civilians in the occupied territories."

Israel also must cooperate with the United Nations resolutions for a Middle East settlement, Gabid said in a message to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Gabid said the expulsions came in defiance of U.N. appeals and were "proof of the lack of concern with which the Israeli entity looks upon international norms and laws, and of its blatant violation of the principles of human rights." He said Israel was practising "organised terrorism."

Hundreds feared killed in Afghan rebel feud

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Hundreds may have died in recent clashes between the two largest groups of U.S.-backed rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan, sources said Tuesday.

The disclosure pointed to worsening relations among the Pakistan-based guerrillas, who have yet to win an Afghan city since Moscow withdrew its forces from the civil war more than six months ago.

Hezb-i-Islami, a powerful, fundamentalist Muslim rebel party, claims 300 guerrillas have died in a bitter dispute in northern Afghanistan with the rival Jamiat-i-Islami group.

"We don't have an updated figure, but we know that 100 Hezb-i-Islami Mujahadeen have died and 200 from Jamiat," said a Hezb spokesman named Nasir. Jamiat, a more liberal but equally powerful Muslim party, called the claim baseless but said its men were holding five Hezb prisoners there, including a noted commander.

"They were handed over by the

local people because they are criminals," said Jamiat spokesman Masoud Khalil.

"Something is going on, that's for sure," said Naim Majrooh, an independent Afghan observer residing in Peshawar, Pakistan. "Both sides are involved. It's difficult to believe either one."

Fazle Akbar, another prominent Afghan exile, said his information indicated between 170 and 200 Mujahadeen have died in the Hezb-i-Islami fighting.

Radio Kabul, official mouthpiece of Afghanistan's government, has reported at least 356 Mujahadeen killed in intertribe clashes in seven provinces since Aug. 18.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, is heavily slanted against the Mujahadeen.

Deep-rooted antagonisms between the two biggest rebel parties broke open last July 9 in northern Takhar province when Hezb guerrillas under commander Syed Jamal ambushed and allegedly executed 32 Jamiat men, including several Jamiat commanders.

Cambodian talks in frenzied last bid

PARIS (R) — Cambodian peace talks went behind closed doors Tuesday in an 11th-hour bid for a compromise to prevent all sides from going back to the battlefield.

Roland Dumas and Ali Aina-ta, the foreign ministers of France and Indonesia, shuttled between opposing camps trying to salvage at least a semblance of success from the month-long talks.

"They're searching for the possibility of a last-minute breakthrough — any possible signal of movement," said one delegate at the 19-nation conference in Paris.

A U.S. spokesman told reporters the talks co-hosts might have to declare negotiations suspended until Cambodia's four warring factions struck a new military balance after Vietnamese troops pull out of the country by Sept. 26.

The conference may end with a suspension leaving open

ended the prospect of reconvening some months down the road when perhaps the realities on the ground have given people a clearer sense of the real balance of forces that are fighting," he said.

Those at the most ambitious diplomatic forum to tackle the decade-old conflict have lauded the French peace effort.

But privately, delegates generally said they had given up hope of any peace treaty before the close Wednesday of a conference which began, said one diplomat, as "a can of worms."

"It was dead before it started. Neither the Cambodians or their backers are ready to make concessions," he said.

Delegates did not rule out a dramatic breakthrough, but said they had no inkling of such a move by any of the key parties.

While talking peace, Cambodia's Hanoi-installed government and the three guerrilla

factions opposed to it have been gearing up to intensify the fighting, with help from their foreign backers who are also present at the talks.

Diplomatic sources in Bangkok said General Sak Suthakorn, who commands one of the guerrilla groups, was expected to arrive in Paris this week to meet resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"Watch Sihanouk, because he has the most to lose if this goes back to the battlefield. He may do something surprising," one delegate said.

Sak and Sihanouk's weak non-Communist movements are allied with Cambodia's former rulers, the Khmer Rouge, now the biggest force fighting Prime Minister Hun Sen's government.

Hun Sen has rejected sharing power with the Khmer Rouge, but the resistance says the Chinese-backed force — because it has the most formidable

able guerrilla army — will perpetuate war unless it is included in a settlement.

China, the United States and other resistance backers are insisting that any treaty agreed in Paris reconcile the warring Cambodians, end foreign interference, and let the United Nations police the country until elections are held.

Any last-minute concessions by Phnom Penh to accept U.N. monitoring of a Vietnamese troop withdrawal without a full solution would be rejected by Washington and other Sihanouk backers, the U.S. official said (see page 8).

"There would be substantial opposition to that... we oppose a partial arrangement."

The United Nations itself believes that without a government of national unity, established by a peace accord, it would be futile to send in a U.N. monitoring force.

Beirut: Where only rats dare

BEIRUT (Agencies) — After five months of day and night shelling by Falangist and Syrian forces, Beirut has been abandoned by 90 per cent of its people. It is a living hell for those who still huddle in its ruins.

"We're living like rats underground, hiding in fear in shelters for endless days and nights," lamented Salwa Ashkar, a 22-year-old Maronite Catholic woman who runs a beauty parlour in Christian east Beirut. "We can't take much more."

"We're going down the drain," said Mahmoud Shami, an unemployed engineering graduate from the American University of Beirut. "I'm trying to get out. Anywhere. I'll go to any country that will give me a visa."

Across the capital's diving "green line," a moonscape of devastated apartment blocks infested by snipers, life is as desperate for the Lebanese on both sides. Hospitals are running out of medicine; there's no electricity or water; the presidential palace atop a hill overlooking Beirut in the Falangist suburb of Ba'abda, like most buildings, has been blasted into rubble. Packs of stray dogs scavenge through the piles of fly-infested garbage in the streets. Rats, some as big as cats, scamper through the stinking, festering mounds that lie in the heat on nearly every alley corner. They are everywhere, among piles of debris, in the wrecks of burnt-out cars, gnawing at wires and cables.

For weeks, the garbage has not been collected, and after five months of artillery duels, few people are willing to step outside to set fire to the refuse rotting everywhere.

But the rats seem less fearful of the shelling, and at night attack the piles of garbage in their hundreds. Even when an occasional car passes, the large rats, their grey fur glistening in the headlights, do not bother to turn round and interrupt their feast. (According to a university survey conducted in better times, rats outnumbered Beirut's human inhabitants by seven to one. With the flight of most of the city's population, the ratio may be higher now). They have infiltrated many homes, crawling through burst pipes, shattered windows or gaping holes left by shells.

One day, an out-of-work militiaman called Hani set traps in a home where Leila, a teacher, lives alone and caught four of the creatures. "It was horrible. They didn't stop screeching all night," says Leila. "The next day after, Hani drowned them in boiling water." A neighbour decided to kick the rats out — literally — after he found them chewing their way through his furniture. The rats counter-attacked, biting off his nose.

Although hygiene has plummeted to an all-time low in Beirut, relief organisations are too busy treating casualties to wage war on the rats.

Beneath the rubble-strewn streets, where power cables cut by shrapnel dangle from spli-

tered wooden poles, the estimated 150,000 Beirut residents cower in underground bunkers or basement parking lots. Apartment building tenants crowd ground-floor entrances to cook whatever they have on makeshift stoves. Housewives hand out the meagre fare. The men venture out when they can to forage wood or anything that will burn.

There is nothing but despair. After 14 years of civil war, an Israeli invasion and murderous street battles between rival militias, surviving one day to the next is all Beirutis can expect.

Every day in west Beirut, when the shelling eases, people emerge from the bunkers, load up cars and pickups with whatever they can carry, and head south. Some find shelter with relatives. But tens of thousands have to camp out along the coastal highway as they did when they fled the Israeli siege of Beirut in 1982. For kilometres along the highway, these refugees in their own land squat beside the road, listening to the rumble of shellfire to the north ripping their city apart.

In east Beirut, the Falangists are not so lucky. Their 800-sq-km enclave, shrunken after years of defeats in the civil war, is ringed to the north, south and east by the Syrians and their allies. The only way out is by sea, past a Syrian blockade on ships bound for Cyprus. Not everyone makes it.

A Christian couple lost their two daughters a few nights ago when Syrian shellfire hit the speedboat ferrying them to a

Norwegian-owned hydrofoil, the Santa Maria, that sneaks in at night. The parents were separated when they were pulled from the Mediterranean by the Santa Maria's crew. Both thought the other had the children. It wasn't until they reached the Cypriot port of Larnaca hours later that they bumped into each other and learned their children had been killed.

Many Christians had fled to the comparative safety of ski resorts of Faraya, Harajel and Ashkunt in the pine-studded central mountains. But it is expensive: a two-room apartment rents for about \$1,800 a month.

Paralysed by a fuel shortage because of the blockade, Christians line up at gas stations. Gas canisters for cooking cost about \$21; in more peaceful times they cost \$1. In the western sector, fuel is more plentiful, although still scarce. Oil and gas are brought in from Syria, but even that's becoming risky because the Falangists are shelling the mountain roads used by Syrian convoys.

Beirut's cafes, once the haunt of high-falling Arab tourists, are closed; no customers, no power, no water. A few bistros open briefly during lulls along rubble-strewn Hamra Street, the main commercial thoroughfare that once bustled with life. But few risk sitting down for a coffee when a shell could blow them away at any minute.

Along west Beirut's Corniche, the Syrians have set up



A small child cries among the rubble of a destroyed house in west Beirut. Scores of houses were destroyed and cars burnt in the savage shelling across Beirut thus helping rats to flourish.

artillery guns that shell the Falangist side across the bay. They have become a target for Falangist gunners, which makes for dangerous living in the apartment blocks lining the Corniche.

Government offices, banks, businesses are closed. What was left of the government system after years of fighting has

ceased to function. No one is being paid. Schools have been closed for months. Parents teach children at home, often in the shelters during shelling.

Some Beirutis have stuck it out. Some have nowhere to go. Some have no money to get out. Some have just given up and wait for the end.

U.S. opposes Palestinian membership in tourism body

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has flatly opposed any form of membership by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a world tourism group as contrary to international law and the cause of peace.

However, it was not clear whether U.S. opposition would derail the move under discussion at a meeting of the World Tourism Organisation in Paris since the United States does not have veto power.

On the other hand, the White House could discourage the move if it chose to withhold financial support. The United States, which covers 4 per cent to 5 per cent of the organisation's budget, is contributing \$330,000 this year.

The PLO, with which the administration is holding talks on Mideast peace prospects, applied for membership on July 7 for "Palestine." All Arab countries recognise Yasser Arafat's Organisation as the sole, legitimate representative of Palestinian Arabs and many other countries have permitted the PLO to open quasi-embassies.

The United States enhanced PLO prestige last December by opening a dialogue that the administration of President George Bush has continued despite an evident lack of progress in promoting Arab-Israeli negotiations. All U.S. administrations, as a matter of policy, have been opposed to establishment of a Palestinian state on land held by Israel.

Asked about the PLO's latest push for acceptance, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher declared: "The U.S. is opposed to admitting the PLO, or 'Palestine' to the World Tourism Organisation. In our view, the self-declared state of Palestine, which we do not recognise, does not meet the generally accepted criteria under international law for statehood, and thus does not qualify for membership in international organisations."

"Nor," Boucher said, "do we believe that bestowing legitimacy upon the self-proclaimed 'state' would advance the efforts to promote peace in the Middle East. We're convinced that the final status of the occupied territories can be determined only through negotiations, not through unilateral acts that prejudice the outcome of such negotiations. The declaration of Palestinian statehood was such a unilateral act."

Boucher said the administration had made its views known to the World Tourism Organisation and "we are consulting closely with like-minded friends on how best to block these PLO efforts, which we will continue to oppose vigorously."

The PLO Monday shelved its bid for full membership of the 106-nation tourism body but a compromise plan being thrashed out may result in a minor diplomatic victory.

Delegates at the general assembly of the World Tourism Organisation said Palestine was likely to be offered some form of association despite opposition from the United States and Israel.

"To come here is the height of audacity, it is preposterous. What can they do about tourism when we control their borders?" Israeli delegate Pinhas Eliav fumed.

But European states favour some form of association, which will boost the PLO's drive for international recognition, and intense backroom bargaining after Monday's opening session could produce an acceptable compromise, delegates said.

The Tunis-based PLO's campaign to join international orga-

nisations has gathered pace since November last year when it recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

It has made some headway with United Nations agencies, who now refer to Palestine rather than the PLO, although it has not achieved full membership.

Eleven Arab backers of the PLO conceded that a state with no territory — and therefore no hotels, beaches or monuments — was an implausible candidate for organisation membership.

"We accept that to have full membership now is not possible because Palestine is not a state," said Ibrahim Elfiqhi Hassan, head of the Libyan delegation.

"We support some of the European proposal to give a kind of status for the Palestinians in the organisation," he added.

Non-Aligned states were also backing the moves to give the PLO a foothold in the organisation while shelving the question of any formal link.

Many delegates predicted the assembly, due to end on Sept. 2, would approve minor but significant gestures like training Palestinians in the tourist sector.

The United States, in one of three draft resolutions on the PLO application to join the Madrid-based body, urged the assembly to postpone any decision, referring to "the vulnerability of tourists, tourism facilities and means of transportation to acts of terrorism."

Tourism organisation officials were worried the PLO issue would monopolise debate at the assembly being attended by tourism ministers from more than 60 countries.

Tourists, pilot swim 5 hours to safety

TUNIS (R) — Four tourists and the pilot of a light plane swam five hours to shore after ditching in the sea off Tunisia, aviation authorities said Tuesday. One passenger was a Belgian, the pilot and three tourists Tunisian, the authorities said. No names were available. Aided by lifejackets, all those aboard the plane reached land Sunday near the mainland port of Gabes.

King Hassan leaves for 1st visit to Libya

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has left Rabat for the northern city of Tangier and a three-day sea voyage to pay his first visit to Libya, officials said.

The pro-government daily Le Matin said the King's visit to Libya was an "unprecedented event of considerable importance" and would set the seal on friendship between two countries which have often been at odds.

A symbolic Moroccan military contingent has already arrived in Tripoli to take part in celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's overthrow of the Libyan monarchy.

Moroccan officials say the anniversary will provide an occa-

sion for a meeting of the five heads of state who set up the Arab Maghreb Union last February linking Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in a common market.

King Hassan has requisitioned the Moroccan ferry boat Mar-rakech for the visit. It will serve as a floating palace during his stay in Tripoli.

Morocco broke relations with Libya twice, in 1971 when Qadhafi supported an abortive coup by Moroccan army rebels and in 1980 when he recognised a republic proclaimed by Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of Western Sahara.

The two countries signed a state union treaty in 1984 and



King Hassan

Qadhafi withdrew support from the Polisario, but King Hassan abrogated it two years later when Qadhafi called him a traitor for meeting then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Turkey faces political turmoil as presidency hangs in air

ANKARA (R) — Opposition parties are threatening political turmoil in Turkey by boycotting the election of the new president in a campaign to force an early general election.

The Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) and centre-right True Path Party (DYP) said after parliament convenes Friday they will boycott ballots to pick a successor to retiring President Kenan Evren.

"If (Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's) Motherland Party goes ahead to elect a president by itself, we shall declare the president illegitimate and refuse to recognise his decrees," DYP Deputy Chairman Esat Kiratliglu said Tuesday.

Although he has not announced he will stand as president, Ozal is front-runner as the Motherland Party's nomination for head of state.

"If I am nominated and if I accept, I can muster enough votes to be elected," he said in July, leaving the question open.

All but one of Turkey's seven previous presidents have been military men. Celal Bayar, the only civilian, was overthrown in a 1960 army coup.

The opposition says that a unilateral Motherland move on the president, who serves a seven-year term, would prompt an early general election which they have been pressing for since March.

The answer is early general elections to give us a new parliament. We do not recognise the legality of a house which does not reflect the true will of the people in the distribution of its seats," Kiratliglu told Reuters.

Nationwide local elections (last March slashed Ozal's 1987 power base on 36 per cent to under 22 per cent. He has defied calls for early elections, saying his mandate, based on a 65-seat majority in the 450-seat parliament is valid until 1992.

The SHP polled 28.4 per cent and former premier Suleyman Demirel's DYP 25.3 per cent of the national votes in March,

pushing Motherland into a humiliating third place.

Ozal has said the president would be a member of his party. "The president will be elected by votes of the Motherland deputies and he shall be one of them," he said.

Constitutional law Professor Muammer Aksoy told Reuters that if the opposition brands the nomination illegal it would force early elections.

"The election of a president by deputies representing under 22 per cent of the people will be totally against the spirit of the constitution."

"If the SHP and DYP take a united stand against a Motherland-elected president, Ozal will be forced to hold early elections," Aksoy said.

Ozal is burdened with an ailing economy. He is under opposition attack for failing to stem a five-year-old Kurdish insurgency in the south east and for imposing visas for ethnic Turkish refugees fleeing from Bulgaria.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algerian opposition party seeks legality

ALGIERS (R) — A new Algerian political party headed by a former exiled opponent of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) has sought legal status. The Algerian News Agency (ANA) reported. The Algerian People's Party (APP), the sixth group to register under the country's nascent multi-party democracy, has already stirred controversy over its leader's links to anti-French nationalist movements of the 1940s. Mohammed Mamchaoui was close to Messali Hadj, an opponent of French colonial rule who split violently with younger leaders of the FLN over tactics and leadership of the resistance. Mamchaoui returned from exile in Europe earlier this year after a liberalisation of the political climate triggered by riots in October. The Arabic daily Al Massa reported Monday that Mamchaoui rejected any link with a party of their same name formed by Hadj in the 1940s. But former FLN fighters in the eight-year war against France, which ended in 1962, last week protested against a revival of the APP.

Numeiri offers advice to end war

CAIRO (AP) — Ousted President Jaafar Numeiri has said that Sudan's new military leadership should base its peace moves to stop the 6-year-old civil war in the south on the 1972 agreement he used to end a similar rebellion. Numeiri, who has been living in exile in Cairo since he was overthrown in 1985, suggested that the peace talks be moved from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to Cairo, and that all political powers in Sudan, including trade and professional unions, participate in the talks. An aide said Numeiri had issued the statement in Washington to avoid angering the Egyptian authorities who offered the former president asylum as long as he did not undertake any political activities. A copy of the statement was obtained by the AP in Cairo. The first round of peace talks between the military government, which came to power June 30, and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army ended in failure earlier this month, with both sides saying they had found no common ground. Numeiri suggested that the new government organise a peace plan based on the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement which resolved a similar conflict between the Muslim Arab north and Christian and animist south by providing regional autonomy for the southern states.

Rebels report killing 88 Ethiopian troops

ABU DHABI (R) — Eritrean rebels said Tuesday they killed 88 Ethiopian troops in their biggest battle in two months, just ahead of peace talks in the United States. Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) spokesman Othman Mohammed Omar said in Abu Dhabi, 60 government soldiers were wounded in the attack on an Ethiopian army brigade Sunday near the town of Adi Kaiech. He declined to give EPLF casualty figures. The EPLF is the biggest of several factions fighting for independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea. Talks between the EPLF and the government, sponsored by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, are due to open in the U.S. city of Atlanta next month. Asked if the latest clash could affect the talks, Omar said: "We hope not."

5 drug traffickers killed in gunbattle

NICOSIA (AP) — Five traffickers have been killed in gunbattles with Iranian anti-drug squads and large quantities of narcotics seized in a continuing nationwide crackdown on drug-smuggling, Tehran Radio has reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mahmoud Mirlohi, deputy commander of the Revolutionary Committees as saying the smugglers were killed in three night raids in the mountains of eastern Khorasan province recently. The committees have taken over most law-enforcement operations in Iran. Khorasan, on the border with Afghanistan, is one of the main narcotics smuggling routes into Iran and has been the centre of security operations in the crackdown launched last December. Mirlohi repeated earlier allegation made by the acting commander in chief of the Revolutionary Committees, Mokhtar Kalantari, that Afghan smugglers were responsible for 90 per cent of the narcotics flow into Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, also monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mirlohi as saying that since the crackdown started last December, Iranian smugglers had been reluctant to engage drug trafficking. Nevertheless, more than 900 alleged drug traffickers, who Iran's official media said were convicted by non-jury Islamic courts, have been hanged in that period.

Pact signed after mosque destruction

LYON, France (AP) — The mayor of Charvieu-Chavagnieu and the head of the local Muslim community have signed an agreement for purchase of a building that will serve as a mosque to replace one destroyed by a city bulldozer. In a joint statement, Mayor Gerard Dezeempe and Abdelhak Benayya, president of the Islamic Cultural Association, appealed for understanding and calm between Christians and Muslims. They said they "condemned any act of violence against people and property as well as statements urging the communities to confront each other." Charvieu-Chavagnieu, a town of 8,000 people about 30 kilometres east of Lyon, became a national focus for religious tension when the building being used for services by roughly 800 Muslims was knocked down on Aug. 16. France has about three million Muslims, many of them immigrants or children of North African immigrants, in a population of 55 million, making Islam the country's second-largest religion. The battering began just after early morning prayers, and one of those inside was slightly injured.

Religious extremist kills lover

CAIRO (AP) — A Muslim fundamentalist told investigators he stabbed and beat his homosexual lover to death out of remorse over their illicit relationship, newspapers have reported. The reports said Ahmad Attiya Al Hamouly killed Mohammed Zein Ismail, a student at Cairo's Islamic Al Azhar University from Kedah state in Malaysia, by stabbing him 12 times and smashing him on the head with an iron. As he rushed from the building, they said, he came across a tenant and stabbed him, wounding him slightly. Police arrested Hamouly Friday, a day after the attacks. A report in Saturday's editions of Al-Ahram said the motive of the crime appeared to have been robbery because the 20-year-old Malaysian's watch and other belongings were missing.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7311-10

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:00 News in French
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo News Message
18:25 Local programme
19:20 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Local programme
22:25 Wrestling
23:10 Varieties programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Loft story
18:40 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
19:00 News in French
19:05 Documentary
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 "You can't take it with you"
21:10 Possibilities
22:00 News in English
22:30 Best seller: "Master of the Game"

PRAYER TIMES

06:44 Fajr
06:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:36 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713131
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 683320
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
There will be a gradual drop in temperatures and rise in humidity while the winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN Min./max. temp.
Aqaba 18 / 30
Aqaba 25 / 37
Deserta 19 / 37
Jordan Valley 23 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32.2, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 46 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani 598552
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436
Dr. Amjad Nawaw 781806
Dr. Mohammad Imran 653999
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asana pharmacy 718336
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaouad pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mahtoud Saeed (—)
Al Sharras pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Jihad Musleh (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 633231
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khafif Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 664164/6
Al-Ahli, Abdali 77101/3
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Baskir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/5
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 62240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983273
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:05 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
11:20 New Delhi (RJ)
12:50 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
14:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
18:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)
18:15 Athens (RJ)
18:20 Paris (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)

18:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
19:35 Madrid, Frankfurt (RJ)
21:15 Baghdad (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 Dhahran (RJ)
22:40 Colombo, Bangkok (RJ)
22:15 Dhahran (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:20 Dubai (AZ)
12:00 Baghdad (LN)
13:00 Baghdad (LA)
13:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (YV)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 Jeddah (SV)
17:25 Frankfurt (LH)
18:45 Cairo (MS)
18:45 Jeddah (SV)
18:45 Kuwait (KU)
21:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:30 Tunis (TU)
01:00

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Aqaba (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 London (BA)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
13:05 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:05 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
14:15 London (BA)
18:00 Colombo (RJ)
18:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
18:15 Jeddah (SV)
18:15 Kuwait (KU)
18:30 Damascus (RJ)
18:30 Jeddah (SV)
18:40 Kuwait (RJ)
18:45 Baghdad, Doha (RJ)
18:10 Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Rome (AZ)
06:30 London (BA)
06:30 Zurich (SR)
10:45 Baghdad (LN)
14:00 Baghdad (LA)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:15 Jeddah, Sana'a (YV)
17:25 Kuwait (KU)
18:25 Jeddah, Jeddah (SV)
18:25 Sana'a (YV)
20:50 Cairo (MS)
22:40 Karachi (PW)
22:15 Dhahran (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Apples price in Jds per kg.
Apples (red) 600 / 300
Apples (green) 400 / 200
Bananas 400 / 200
Bananas (Meknes) 35

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SHARIF ZAID RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY: Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Tuesday discussed with Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Isma'il relations between Jordan and Iraq and means to develop them. (Petra)

SURPLUS OF LENTILS: The Ministry of Supply said Tuesday that its warehouses have large amounts of lentils which could be sold to wholesale and retail merchants in the country. A ministry spokesman said the lentils are sufficient for the country's needs, and there is a large surplus of lentils for export. He said lentils can be bought at JD 185 a tonne and sold to consumers at the rate of 210 fils a kilogramme. (Petra)

ISLAMIC SITES IN PALESTINE: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is currently preparing a plan designed to spread additional information on Islamic sites in Palestine. This plan is intended to inform the public and those interested in archaeological sites about the Islamic and Arabic nature of the occupied Arab territories. (Petra)

COMPLETING IRRID PROJECTS: Water Authority Secretary General Mu'taz Bilbeisi Tuesday conferred with Irbid Mayor Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat. The discussions dealt with means to complete sewerage and water projects in Irbid before the start of the winter season. (Petra)

PHYSICIANS TO MEET IN TUNIS: A total of 700 doctors will take part in the fourth conference of the League of Physicians in the Mediterranean region which will convene in Tunis on Sept. 10. The three-day conference will discuss scientific studies on organs transplant, means to develop this field and reduce its high cost, as well as colon inflammation and precautionary medicine. (Petra)

FRENCH YOUTH TEAM TOUR AMMAN: The visiting French youth delegation Tuesday toured Al Hussein Youth City and listened to a briefing on its establishment, development, and role in promoting sports in Jordan. The delegation also visited the Martyr's Monument and King Abdullah Public Park. This visit takes place in accordance with the agreement signed by Jordan and France in 1987 which provides for exchange of youth delegations. (Petra)

U.S. OFFICIAL VISITS JUST: Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni Tuesday received the U.S. cultural attaché in Amman. The discussions dealt with means to upgrade cooperation between JUST and the American universities in the scientific and cultural fields. Ajlouni briefed on the establishment and development of JUST, as well as its educational plans, particularly with regard to graduate studies and scientific research, and its contribution to developing the local society. Present at the audience were the vice presidents for administrative and academic affairs. (Petra)

ZARQA RESIDENT RECEIVES DEGREE: Aziz Al Mahadin, a resident of Zarqa, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in aerospace engineering from Northrop University. Mahadin, who was sponsored by Royal Jordan Air Force, will return to the Air Force as an officer and aerospace engineer. He is a 1985 graduate of Al Thawra High School in Zarqa. Northrop University is a nonprofit, independent institution offering a broad range of graduate, undergraduate and certificate programmes in over 30 academic areas. The university attracts students from around the world and across the United States. (J.T.)

DIETING AND FOOD SERVICES: A seminar on dieting and food services in the Arab World will open at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture on Saturday. The two-day seminar will be attended by Arab specialists in nutrition who will discuss the role of nutritionists and educational programmes in guiding Arab citizens on food issues. A study, prepared by the Princess Basma hospital in Irbid on dieting and food services in hospitals in Jordan, will be discussed along with the prospect of establishing an Arab nutrition society. (Petra)

ACC AUDITORS MEET IN AMMAN TODAY: Certified auditors unions in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will hold a two-day meetings in Amman Wednesday. The conferees will discuss matters related to practice of auditing and the unification of its rules and regulations in the ACC countries. Iraqi, Egyptian, and North Yemeni delegations have already arrived in Amman. (Petra)

SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE IN MA'AN: A project to build a special education centre in Ma'an began Tuesday. The project includes building a number of classrooms and a multi-purpose annex over a 408-square-metre land with a cost of JD 60,000. (Petra)

COURSES IN NUTRITION: The Princess Basma Centre for Social Services has completed preparations for holding a number of courses in various social services centres in Ma'an Governorate dealing with nutrition, sewing, and knitting. (Petra)

ANALYSING INDUSTRIAL PROJECT: A training programme in the field of analysis and assessment of industrial projects will be held in Amman Sept. 2. The four-week conference aims at promoting the participants' capabilities in the field of planning, analysing, and administering industrial projects. The conference will be held by the Royal Scientific Society's Economic Research Centre in cooperation with the Economic Development Institute (Petra)

ASSESSMENT OF WATER NEEDS: The Ministry of Water and Irrigation, announced Monday that it will set up special committees to make assessment of lands and their needs of water, as well as crops to be grown on these lands. The committee will conduct its task in the Jordan Valley region. (Petra)

HASHISH PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Samer Abdullah Khalil to two-year prison term and the payment of JD 1,500 for being found in possession of hashish. The military governor has endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

Firm seeks to establish industrial chemical plant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Industrial Consortium Engineering Company (JICEC) in the next few days will float a tender inviting consultancy firms to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of an industrial chemicals plant near the Arab Potash Company (APC) plant at the southern tip of the Dead Sea. The announcement was made by Mr. Omar Abdullah Dakhqan, the company's director general, who said that the Islamic Development Bank and the Kuwait fund for Economic and Social Development will jointly finance the study.

Dakhqan made the statement to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily which said that the study would take 18 months to complete. Work on the project could start within the coming three years. The projected plan has been

backed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who had chaired meetings to review the project.

Dakhqan said that the vital project would be one of the major regional schemes that could be complementary to petrochemical industries in the Gulf region, employing petrochemical products and marketing products abroad.

Dakhqan said nearly \$2,500 million will be needed to set up the plant which would yield an annual revenue of \$750 million and would create 10,000 jobs.

He said that the plant would use Dead Sea minerals for the production of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, and other various products which enter different industries, including the glass industry and the manufacture of fertilizers.

'Arab universities to need around 250,000 teachers by year 2000'

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — Arab ministers responsible for higher education and scientific research opened their fourth conference Tuesday here to discuss issues related to higher education at universities and Arabisation of foreign terms to help facilitate the process of learning at higher university levels.

Jordan is represented at the three-day meeting by a team led by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad and groupings of University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra and Royal Scientific Society President Hani Al Mulki.

The conference is expected to endorse an agreement on the establishment of a centre for Arabisation, translation and publication in conjunction with the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO).

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the opening session, Assad said the participating ministers will discuss scientific research and higher studies at Arab universities and the need to build up a bigger staff of professors to meet the growing



Nassereddin Al Assad — expansion in university education.

The Arab World's universities are expected to need one quarter of a million new staff members from now until the end of the present century, the minister noted.

He said that the universities are expanding and are in constant need of teachers and professors to cope with the growing number of students.

"There can be no progress or

prosperity for any nation without proper scientific research and technological development; and the universities of the Arab World should be helped to contribute towards such development to attain progress in all fields," Assad continued.

But, he noted, scientific research requires vast financial resources, and "this is a chronic problem for all universities which should be tackled at the highest level."

The conference is expected to follow up the implementation of recommendations of the previous conferences which called for the establishment of the centre and affiliated institutes in Arab countries.

The Jordanian delegation will present working papers dealing with Jordanian universities' experiments in scientific research programmes and higher education, the minister noted.

Assad had a meeting earlier Tuesday with his Syrian Counterpart Kamal Sharaf and discussed the implementation of a Jordanian-Syrian cultural agreement and cooperation between Syrian and Jordanian universities.

Jordan, Iraq review accords on organising land transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Officials responsible for transport in Jordan and Iraq met here Tuesday to review tentative agreements reached by technical subcommittees on organising land transport between the two countries.

Iraqi under-secretary for Transport Khaled Samarra'i met with Minister of Transport Hikmat Al Khammash to review draft agreements in this respect negotiated by the teams in Amman and Aqaba over the past three days.

An Iraqi team, which visited Amman and Aqaba to discuss

these issues, is reporting to the minister of transport in Baghdad on the outcome of discussions, according to officials at the Ministry of Transport here Tuesday.

The discussions were held in implementation of directives issued by the two ministers at their recent meeting in Baghdad, the officials said.

Khammash told the Iraqi official that Jordan was concerned with providing all facilities for land transportation of passengers and goods, especially from Aqaba to Baghdad and vice versa, and will do all it can to overcome any obstacle that might impede this process.

An agreement by the minister, signed in Baghdad on Aug. 8, paved the way for the team's work which is designed to stimulate the transport sector's operations.

Iraq imports a great deal of goods via Aqaba Port and is currently contemplating the construction of a rail link with Jordan in a bid to further facilitate transport operations between the two countries.

Jordan, Syria seek to boost volume of exchanged products

DAMASCUS (Petra, J.T.) — Agriculture Minister Adnan Badran had a meeting here Tuesday with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghahash to discuss Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in agricultural fields and increasing the volume of exchanged products.

In a statement later, Badran said that he reviewed with Ghahash the process of bilateral cooperation in implementation of resolutions adopted by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meeting which convened in Damascus last month.

Providing Jordan with potato seeds, exchanges of fruit tree saplings and trading information about means to combat desert locusts were among the topics on the agenda, Badran noted.

He said that bilateral cooperation in veterinary medicine launching joint agricultural ventures which among other things include a project for fattening sheep, to

be implemented at the Hammad Basin in eastern Jordan, were also discussed.

In a statement upon arriving in Damascus on Monday Badran said the two sides were striving to work out an agricultural coordination plan that would provide for bilateral cooperation in supplying the markets of Syria and Jordan with surplus crops at the request of either side.

The minister said Jordan has just concluded agreements to buy 6,000 tonnes of Syrian seeds and grain.

The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) will soon import half of this consignment while the private sector companies in Jordan will handle the rest, Badran noted.

Innab back after attending Damascus fair opening

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Innab returned to Amman Tuesday following a brief visit to Damascus where he attended the formal opening of the Damascus International Fair.

Jordan is taking part in the two-week fair, displaying a range of products by 130 companies

which include manufactured products, minerals and textiles.

A total of 29 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the fair which was opened by Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Imadi, deputising for President Hafez Al Assad.

RSS develops new traffic light controller

AMMAN — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) engineers have finished the design and manufacture of a new traffic light controller known as TLC-16.

This new controller is a developed form of the lights controller known as TLC-01 which the RSS had designed earlier.

The new model is characterised with its ability to service up to sixteen signal groups (vehicles or pedestrians) where it can service two or more consecutive junctions, thereby reduce the need for extra controllers.

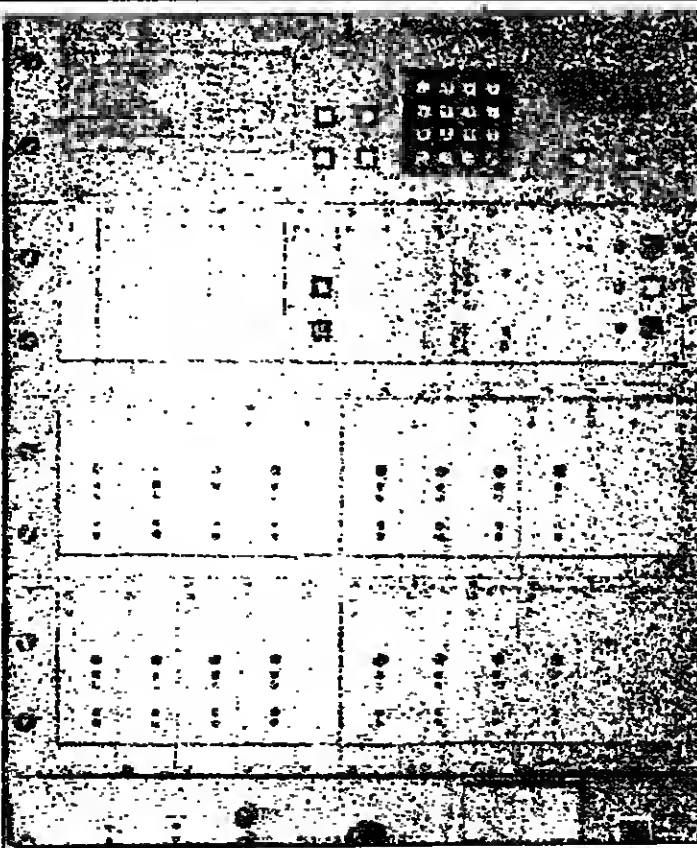
Moreover, this model can make use of up to 16 detector loops thus reducing traffic jams.

A hex keyboard, an alphanumeric display and their associated operating systems make data entry and read out a simple task for the user, while still maintaining modularity for quick and easy maintenance.

Like all other traffic light controllers, this model has green and red — conflict monitoring to ensure safety of persons on the streets.

Moreover, it has a real time clock which enables the controller to shift among several timing programmes according to the time of the day and day of the week.

The new model can be applied to nearly all crossroads in major



The new traffic light controller known as TLC-16

cities and thus be of great value of traffic control in Jordan.

In a separate development, a group of RSS specialists are involved in preparing a study on ways to improve the quality of pharmaceutical products in North Yemen.

An RSS statement here said that five specialists will be dispatched to North Yemen to help a local pharmaceutical company, the Yemeni Drug Company (YEDCO), to conduct work on improvements for a whole year in

the course of an on-going cooperation between Jordan and North Yemen.

An RSS specialist has just returned from North Yemen after spending a week-long visit there conducting an assessment of North Yemen's needs of expertise.

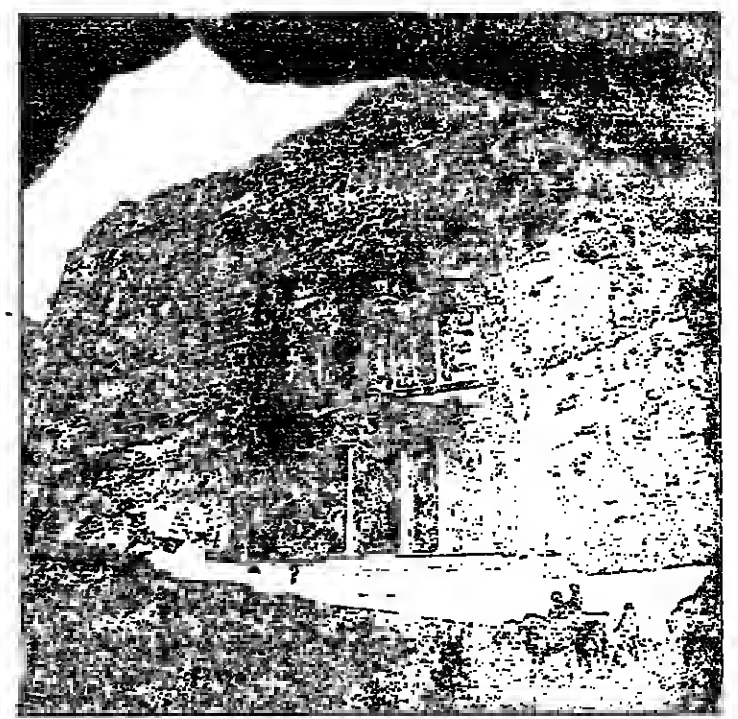
Ali Ghazawi, an economic researcher at the RSS, was sent to assess YEDCO's needs of Jordanian expertise in financial, administrative and technical fields — RSS News.

2nd Petra Cultural Festival begins Sept. 10

MA'AN (J.T.) — The Wadi Mousa Cultural Club has finalised arrangements for the second Petra Cultural Festival which is due to open at the ancient Nabatean city on Sept. 10, 1989.

The club in charge of organising the annual event said that the five-day festival, which will be formally inaugurated by Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat, entails a review of Arabian horses, performances by the folklore troupes from Wadi Mousa and Ma'an areas, the opening of handicraft exhibitions set up by the Department of Antiquities, a photo exhibition of Petra and another exhibition by the Jordanian Armed Forces displaying the evolution and development of the Armed Forces since the Great Arab Revolt.

A spokesman for the club said that the festival also includes a comprehensive exhibition by University of Jordan and another exhibition of national costumes. The Armed Forces bands and those of Radio Jordan and youth clubs in Al Qaser and Wadi Mousa towns will perform during the festival.



The festival will present lectures on historic, cultural and religious topics, a play by the Ministry of Culture and Information and a poetry reading session, the spokesman said.

He said that musical bands from the Mu'ta and Yarmouk universities, the university of Jordan band as well as folk troupes from Karak, Ma'ana, Wadi Mousa and Aqaba youth centres will also take part in the five-day event.

Last year opened the first Petra Cultural Festival which included

a variety of cultural and folkloric activities, as well as seminars and lectures on historic and cultural topics.

The idea for the festival came from a group of Wadi Mousa undergraduate students at the University of Jordan who were inspired by the success of the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts which is held annually in Jordan.

The Jerash Festival launched nine years ago was the brainchild of a group of voluntary students and staff at Yarmouk University.

Four-year-old dream realised with four-fold manifestation

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Bassam and Houda Daraiseh waited four years in vain since their marriage for a child; their dream came true in the fifth year, but it was an unexpected bargain — three boys and a girl.

The couple, from the north of Jordan, took their babies home Tuesday from the Jordan Centre for Fertility attached to the Al Khalidi Hospital. They now face a new dilemma: how to care for the four children with the rising cost of living in the Kingdom.

How did it happen? "When the couple came to us seeking help, we diagnosed the problem as a case of hormone imbalance in Mrs. Daraiseh," explained Dr. Zaid Al Keilani, head of the centre. "We injected her with hormones in order to regulate her ovulation."

Having the quadruplets was "just luck in our case," added the

husband. According to Keilani, "the exciting thing about the birth is that she had quadruplets and that even though they had low birth weight they all survived."

"This speaks of the standard of the paediatrician, nurse and equipment in the country," he added.

The centre, the oldest in the Arab World, offers its services to anyone and provides financial assistance to certain lower income families provided they are "good candidates, success is probable and the centre is convinced they need financial assistance," Keilani explained in an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Although the Daraiseh family received assistance in paying the cost of treatment, which worked only too well, the new father is not exactly very happy with the prospect of having to raise four children all at once. "Of course, I am very happy that I have chil-

dren," he told the Jordan Times. "But it is going to be very hard raising four children at one time with such high prices for diapers, milk and other necessities. I am planning to seek assistance from organisations here and abroad."

The Daraisehs went to Dr. Keilani and his team of specialists in October 1988. Shortly afterwards the wife was pregnant. The children were born 10 weeks premature two weeks ago, but they "are doing very well now," said Dr. Abdul Karim Al Zaka, a paediatrician and neonatologist, who cared for the babies.

"Although the babies were very small at birth and encountered breathing problems and other disorders associated with prematurity and multiple births... they are now fit and healthy," Dr. Zaka said.

The new additions to the Daraiseh family were named Rajaa, Zaid, Amjad and Mohammad. Only don't ask who is the oldest.

Meeting discusses authorising departments to appoint teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The question of granting authority to departments of education in the provinces to appoint teachers was discussed at a meeting held at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in Amman Tuesday.

The meeting, attended by Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin and the CSC director, also reviewed procedures that could be adopted in transferring the minister of education's authorities to department heads.

A statement later said that the move was designed to achieve decentralisation in the appointment of teachers working at government schools in Jordan.

"Should teachers be appointed through this system, coordination must be made with provincial governors and the CSC, the statement said quoting a spokesman for the Ministry of Education.

If approved, the system is bound to be enforced at the start of the coming year, the statement

added. It said that the meeting resulted in the formation of a special committee to conduct further studies on procedures pertaining to the new arrangement before

the system can be approved. The committee is to submit a report on its study in two weeks.

Senior officials from the three departments were present at the meeting.

EXPERTS TO DISCUSS CUSTOMS AFFAIRS: The Ministry of Finance/Customs will take part in an annual four-day meeting by experts in customs affairs to be held in Brussels on Sept. 11. The experts will discuss cooperation among nations in customs affairs. (Petra)

WANTED

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

The U.S. Agency for International Development has a vacancy in its Office of Private Enterprise and Project Development for a Project Officer to design, implement and monitor selected projects in its portfolio. The office has direct management responsibility for implementation of the private sector project portfolio, human resources development, urban development programs and technical assistance and feasibility studies.

In executing the duties, the incumbent will interact regularly with top level government and business leaders. Applicants should be American or Jordanian citizens, preferably with an advanced degree, and should have strong English writing and speaking skills and experience in program management. Applicants should submit their CVs and sample of their English writing no later than September 14, 1989 to:

Personnel Office
U.S. Agency for International Development
P.O. Box 354
Amman, Jordan

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Ghawannakh and Abdullah Kamaleh, and the Syrian artist Wafaa Al Maari at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Al Hiba at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

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Why the hostile campaign?

OPPOSITION to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) bid to secure membership in the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) comes as nothing new. It was expected from day one and it does not matter at this point in time whether or not the PLO, inter alia, the State of Palestine, gains entry to the agency. But, what strikes the international community as strange is the vehemence with which the U.S. administration is pursuing its campaign to abort the PLO effort. It is one thing when Washington takes a stand and makes it known that it opposes PLO entry to U.N. agencies but it is a totally different issue when it launches an all-out campaign against the PLO's efforts. Well, that's what the State Department deputy spokesman revealed when he admitted that the Bush administration was "consulting with like-minded friends on how best to block these PLO efforts, which we will continue to oppose vigorously."

And what grounds does he offer to justify the American position? "The self-declared State of Palestine, which we do not recognise, does not meet the generally accepted criteria under international law for statehood and thus does not qualify for membership in international organisations." Well, this argument, perhaps, is well taken if we allow for the fact that the physical boundaries of the State of Palestine have not yet been defined. Isn't it about all that the PLO has not done?

But, what seems hard to digest is what the American spokesman added: "Nor do we believe that bestowing legitimacy upon the self-proclaimed state would advance efforts to promote peace in the Middle East."

May we ask a couple of very simple questions: When a group of independence-seeking immigrants decided in the 18th century that it was time they ended centuries of colonial rule and declared what is today the United States of America, what were the boundaries of that state? How many other countries extended "legitimacy" to that "state"? Was or was not that state unquote "legitimate" under foreign occupation at a time the concepts of independence, self-determination, freedom, dignity, liberty and all that goes with them were not exactly the parameters that guided international politics? If anything, one would expect these parameters, which are so strong today as the avowed fundamentals that govern the policies of many countries, to be the determining factors in the decision-making process of a country, which itself has lived through the agony of having to fight tooth and nail for "legitimacy." Even if one was to suppress any thinking along these lines, when seen in light of the peculiarities of the American-Israeli-Palestinian question, isn't it ironic that the U.S. is waging an open war against a liberation movement, which has made its peace intentions loud and clear to the international community?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian Arabic dailies on Tuesday discussed Israel's repression in the occupied Arab territories and the daily atrocities committed by the Israeli troops. Al Ra'i daily said in its editorial that Israel is a state established on aggression and organised terrorism, and has continually received world-wide condemnation for its inhuman practices. The recent deportation of the five Arab residents of the West Bank can only reflect the ongoing atrocities and acts of intimidation and terrorism committed by the Israeli authorities over the past years, the paper noted. It said that Israeli leaders aim at evacuating the Palestinian lands by killing their residents or deporting them to other countries so that the way can be paved for world Zionism to consolidate its hold over the region. At the same time, the paper noted, the Israelis continue to claim that they are working for peace and that Arab people under Israeli rule enjoy democratic rule and that the election proposal is part of Israel's ways of enforcing democracy. The deportation of the five Arab residents, the paper said, constituted a dastard crime against humanity.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday discusses human rights in Jordan which are being respected by the constitution and commended by a report issued by the Arab Human Rights Commission this year. Fahed Al Faneh says that the report pays tribute in Jordan for its excellent treatment of non-Jordanian workers, for personal liberties, the treatment of prisoners and the right to education and work as well as social security and the formation of trade unions. But he says that Jordan can do more within the 1952 constitution, providing more liberties to the citizens and opening the door for all sectors to contribute to the country's democratic march. He says that there still exists discrimination against women in Jordan, something which the country should immediately tackle if democracy is to be safeguarded in the Kingdom. The writer also urges the Kingdom to sign two international agreements one on ending all discrimination against women and another on confronting all forms of torture against detainees.

Al Dustour newspaper on Tuesday also dwelt on Israel's repressive acts, citing the deportation last Sunday of five Palestinians to Lebanon and France. The paper said that Israel could not have pursued inhuman practices had it not enjoyed the total backing and the unlimited help from the United States. The United States is indeed helping the Israelis to commit crimes against the Palestinian Arabs, not only through supplying them with the means to maintain their iron-fist policies, but also through covering up for Israel's actions at the United Nations Security Council which, thanks to Washington's efforts, had been hampered from taking meaningful action to put an end to Israel's inhuman practices and occupation, the paper added. It said that the United States is doing all that even in violation of all beliefs and principles in which the American people believe, and in violation of all principles of justice, democracy and human rights.

ECOLIGHT

An Israeli system of atrocity

By Jawad Anani

SHA'OUL is an Israeli gold merchant who lives in Jafa. He is not an important person, and if you passed him in the street you would not give him a second look. This man became a few days ago a major media news; an overnight celebrity. He went missing for thirty odd hours when his relatives thought that he was eaten by a wolf. He was not; he was left in a dry well near Toulkarm. Once found, pulled out and returned home, his relatives gave him a jubilant homecoming party, fully and extensively covered by snoop TV cameras. It was said that he was abducted by masked Palestinians while he was collecting his dues from Arab merchants who had bought gold from him in Toulkarm.

Sha'oul was able to travel to Toulkarm and sell his gold because he was operating under a full-fledged system of atrocities. There is the occupation of Toulkarm which keeps the West Bank under the boots of Israeli soldiers. Then there are the regulations that force people under occupation to import their goods from Israel and the Israelis. Also, there is the heavy taxation which pushed some Palestinians in Jerusalem to throw fire bombs at an Israeli car filled with mafiosi-looking tax collectors. The ease with which Sha'oul can travel from Jafa to Toulkarm, his ability to buy

and sell and his disappearance are the products of a total system of aggression and colonialism.

Poor Sha'oul was kidnapped. Well he is no "fiddler on the roof." He is the symbol of a power that is trying to conquer the spirit of people who are fighting and struggling to see that Sha'oul does not buy, cash in, earn money and move freely about while they are denied the rights to do so in their own towns and souls.

Well, Sha'oul is back with his children and to his wife's bosom. How about the ten thousand Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails crammed together like sheep in narrow concentration camps? What about the thousands who will be detained for a "year" under arraignment before they are put on trial? Who vouches for those young people defying the worst occupation practices reminiscent of Nazi practices?

The basic rights of Sha'oul are guaranteed. He is a hero — Well, he is not. He is a bravo made hero under circumstances — beyond his control. He could actually be a coward without the complete system of oppression to back him up.

The Israelis at large were quite exhilarated to see Sha'oul back

— not because he is an individual from a peace-loving society. Last week a poll showed that 51 per cent of the Israelis prefer to evacuate Arab Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Sha'oul was not abducted because he is a regular merchant doing his business as usual. He is a symbol of state terror and tyranny.

The fact that the Israelis were over jubilant to see Sha'oul safely home returns reveals the amount of fear his family and friends are storing on account of the intifada. It is reaching their doorsteps, rooms and hearts. What are the Israelis going to do about it? Will that fear be a prelude to a mass hate campaign? Or will it impress upon them to relinquish occupation and grandiose dreams which they cannot afford.

Instead of making threats against Jordan, let them worry about their own problems. Jordan is not an easy prey, let them abandon the "regional prefect" role and assume the one they can certainly play — live in peace with their neighbours.

Sha'oul, why don't you tell us about the fears you harboured inside that well and I will tell you the story of a brave 10-year-old Palestinian boy who defied the tanks and bullets — festooned soldiers who brought you home to your friends and relatives?

The lesson from World War II

By Henry Kissinger

FIFTY YEARS AGO, on Sept. 1, 1939, the German training ship Schleswig-Holstein shelled Polish positions near Gdansk. It was the beginning of World War II.

Conventional wisdom holds that the policy of appeasement — a pervasive failure to stand up to Hitler — rendered the war inevitable. This is both true and superficial. Hitler started the war. But the international order found itself at the mercy of a single maniacal leader, because of an abdication of statesmanship spanning the two decades following the Versailles settlement of 1919.

In a healthy system, an international system must have two components: a balance of power makes the overthrow of international order physically difficult, deterring a challenge before it occurs. A broadly based principle of legitimacy produces reluctance to assault the international order. A stable peace testifies to a combination of physical and moral restraints.

Both these principles were ignored by the Treaties of Versailles and Saint-Germain that ended World War I.

Before 1914, European policy was conducted by five great powers — Britain, France, Germany and the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires. The continental nations were contiguous and intertwined by complex alliances. But the Treaty of Saint-Germain dissolved one of the major countries — the Austro-Hungarian Empire — into its constituent nationalities, producing a plethora of small states in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. The Treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany and gave it no stake in the international order. Concurrently, the Russian Empire was first wracked by revolution and then ostracised because of its outcome.

Thus, after the United States withdrew in 1920, the European balance of power was in effect composed of two countries: France and Britain. But Britain had rarely engaged itself permanently on the continent — especially not on the side of the strongest nation which, at least on paper, appeared to be France.

France, on the other hand, had suffered the heaviest casualties in relation to the population of any combatant. She lacked the means and the will to be the arbiter of Europe. Aware that but for British, Russian and American help, the war would have been lost, France could not face the prospect of maintaining the European balance alone.

Hence France's idea of the balance of power was to weaken the feared neighbours. Germany had to give up Alsace-Lorraine in France and territories in the East to Poland; the Rhineland was demilitarised and the German army severely limited in size and equipment. Finally, large and eventually unpayable reparations were imposed on Germany.

So long as Germany remained disarmed, there was a conceivable balance. But there was no precedent of a major country remaining permanently disarmed. And once the arms limitations were jettisoned, it would become obvious that, contrary to the victor's intentions, the Treaty of Versailles had left Germany stronger geopolitically than before 1914, when its Eastern neighbours had been Russia and Austria-Hungary.

After 1919 Germany bordered only on much weaker countries in the East: on Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria, and behind them Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia. These countries, alone or together, would be unable to resist a revanchist Germany.

The Treaty of Versailles was too severe to be accepted by Germany, but not severe enough to prevent it from challenging the settlement. World War I, fought

to prevent German hegemony over Europe, ended by leaving Germany in a better position strategically to achieve its Eastern ambitions than it had been before.

Germany was not the only irredentist country. The Soviet Union, excluded from European diplomacy, was always prepared to play the capitalists off against each other. In the 1920s, it facilitated secret training by the German army in its soil in violation of the Treaty of Versailles. In the '30s, Stalin tried to make overtures to Hitler; when rebuffed, he made an alliance with France, only to return to his first option in the Hitler-Stalin pact.

Finally, when the borders of the Austro-Hungarian successor states were drawn, it became apparent that the principle of self-determination frequently clashed with the requirements of security. In the name of defence, Germans, Poles and Hungarians were incorporated into Czechoslovakia, Hungary into Romania, and yet other minorities into Yugoslavia. In the end, nearly as many people were living under foreign rule as had in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and most of the successor states had revisionist aims of their own.

In retrospect, it is strange that no statesman at the time addressed the question of whether it was possible to maintain a settlement that excluded the two most populous continental countries: Russia and Germany. Britain probably would have preferred to conciliate Germany but could not get the support of France. France wanted to keep Germany impotent but could not obtain the support of Britain. The result was indecisiveness and evasion — a built-in policy of too little too late.

As for the United States, it had championed the principle of self-determination and sought to overcome the imperfection of its application by advancing the concept of collective security. A world community assembled in the League of Nations would deal with threats to peace and modify imperfect arrangements by consensus. This doctrine assumed that threats to peace were always unambiguous; that all nations had

an identical vested interest in opposing or rectifying them and that they would agree on appropriate measures.

History, however, offered no support for any of these propositions. Nor for that matter did the subsequent history of either the League of Nations or the United Nations. In any event, the United States chose not to join its own creation.

So it happened that World War I, advertised as the war to end all wars, produced a peace treaty without either a balance of power or an agreed sense of legitimacy. The Versailles settlement was fated to collapse either into war or into German hegemony over Eastern Europe.

Of all the countries, France was in the most tragic position. Drained by the bloodletting, caught between her memories and premonitions, France had recourse to a diplomacy that sought to extract German assurances without quite believing in them. One result was the Treaty of Locarno in 1924, hailed at the time as a breakthrough toward peace. In it, Germany guaranteed its western frontier with France but refused to give the same guarantee to its eastern neighbours.

In other words, in what appeared as an act of reconciliation, Germany was actually underscoring its challenge to the postwar system by implying that the Treaty of Versailles was not valid unless reaffirmed and established without the acquiescence of Britain and France, two kinds of frontiers in Europe, some guaranteed by Germany, some not.

The following year saw another step on the road toward substituting verbal assurance for strategic balance. The statesmen of the world conceived the Kellogg-Briand pact, this time with U.S. participation. In it, all nations abjured recourse to war, which, unfortunately, their actions had made structurally more likely.

All this meant that Eastern Europe was being left to its own devices — in fact if not yet in theory — as evidenced by the second seminal event of the

1920s, the building of the Maginot Line by France. For the mentality behind the Maginot Line consigned the countries of Eastern Europe to German domination once Germany rearmament. France could prevent Germany from implementing a policy of revisionism in the East only if she had a credible option of invading Germany. But the Maginot Line signalled exactly the opposite, namely, that France would resist, if at all, by conducting a war of attrition from behind its fortifications. Strategy and foreign policy had fallen totally out of phase.

Hitler relentlessly exploited both the weaknesses of the international system and the guilt feelings of his opponents.

A succession of Western politicians returned from meeting with him repeating his professed desire for peace. Within two years of coming to power in 1933, Hitler had abrogated the Versailles limitations on German arms with the argument that the other nations had not kept their promise to follow Germany on the road to disarmament.

In a world feeling less guilty about analysing peace in terms of equilibrium, this should have set off alarm signals. Instead, Europe took refuge in the belief that Hitler's challenges to the international order resulted from specific grievances, rather than from structural defects of the system and the Nazi commitment to aggression. Hence, it was thought that alleviating or "appeasing" specific grievances would preserve the peace.

In my mind, the turning point at which war became inevitable was not Munich in 1938 but the German reoccupation of the Rhineland in 1936.

So long as the west bank of the Rhine was demilitarised, Germany ran the risk that a move toward the East might lead to a French occupation of the Rhineland, the Maginot Line notwithstanding. But once Germany was in a position to construct fortifications on its western frontier, Britain and France could protect in East European nations only by the threat of a long war of attrition.

tion, during which France's allies in Eastern Europe were certain to be overrun.

One reason for the fecklessness of the Western response was that the principle of the balance of power clashed with the democracies' moral convictions. The former counselled restraint and reliance on Hitler's assertions of good will.

From the point of view of equilibrium, this was the time for France to act, alone if necessary, since German rearmament had not yet progressed very far. From the point of view of legitimacy — which dominated British thinking — Germany was only exercising rights to defend its national territory accorded to every other state.

Since France refused to act without Britain, she had to be satisfied with a strengthened British commitment to resist a German attack on France. This was, of course, no solace to France's allies in Eastern Europe.

The shambles of the balance of power was accompanied by the collapse of the doctrine of collective security. When in 1935 Mussolini attacked Abyssinia, the League of Nations dithered. It applied sanctions, but so halfheartedly that it wound up demonstrating impotence rather than determination. The only lasting result was a rapprochement between Italy and Germany, which increased the freedom of manoeuvre of the Nazis.

The combination of these two events sealed the fate of Eastern Europe. The only remaining issue was whether Hitler would be patient enough to accomplish the domination of Eastern Europe without war. But Hitler was neither patient nor anxious to avoid war. On the contrary, he sought it.

In March 1938, Austria was annexed. The democracies did not resist. Once again considerations of equilibrium counselled one course, legitimacy another. The so-called Anschluss further undermined the balance of power by extending Germany's frontiers toward the Balkans and encircling Czechoslovakia, a French ally.

On the other hand, Austria's population spoke German, and the vast majority favoured joining the Reich.

A few months later it was the turn of Czechoslovakia.

Munich has gone down into history as a term of special opprobrium. But in fact it applied the premises of foreign policy established for nearly two decades. Once again the principle of self-determination — the desire of 3.5 million Germans inside Czechoslovakia to join their compatriots across the border — overrode the principle of equilibrium. A democratic ally was sacrificed.

In fairness, it must be stated that even strong and disillusioned leaders might have calculated that by then they would need time to restore their arms.

The famous words of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain upon his return from Munich that he was bringing "peace in our time" have obscured the reality that he did not act on them. Instead, he spurred British rearmament, especially in air power. And when Hitler grabbed for non-German populations by dismembering the remnant of Czechoslovakia six months later, Britain did not blink. With both the balance of power and the principle of legitimacy under assault, Britain reverted to its tradition of opposing continental hegemony.

Within a week of the German annexation of Bohemia and Moravia, Britain gave a guarantee to Poland. No further German expansion was possible without a major war.

By now, however, the balance of two decades had been shattered. The Western democracies to the west of France were alone. For Stalin saw no difference between the Western democracies and Hitler, and he had no stake in the existing system. His nightmare was that the democracies would reflect toward the east what he considered the inevitable capitalist civil war. For a while, he feared that Munich had opened the gate for such a course.

But he must have been relieved by the British guarantee of Poland. For Germany could not attack the Soviet Union without crossing Poland. Hence Stalin needed to pay no price for bringing Britain and France into a war to prevent German expansion eastward — the only war in which Stalin was prepared to engage himself.

The Hitler-Stalin pact sealed the fate of the precarious peace for which more than 20 million had died two decades before. The two countries that were ignored in the Versailles settlement made common cause in destroying it.

History is the only perspective on which statesmen can draw. But it does not teach its lessons automatically. It demonstrates the consequences of comparable situations, but each generation has to determine what situations are in fact comparable.

The end of a long article is the occasion to draw tactical parallels. But it is possible to see that our generation faces a problem similar to that which engaged statesmen 70 years ago — how to construct a stable international order.

Most of the postwar period has been characterised by a relatively stable European equilibrium. Now, that two-power world is disintegrating — more in the East than in the West. If history is any guide, such a process cannot be left to chance, even less to the vagaries of good will. The temporary leaders need a compass to relate structure to international equilibrium and legitimacy.

One can only hope that the conventional wisdom of our period will not appear as short-sighted 50 years from now as that of the generation that managed the period between the two wars. — Los Angeles Times



The Hitler-Stalin pact is signed on August 23, 1939. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov signs as (from left) German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop, Stalin, Pavlov and Gaus look on.

في الأجل

Interview with the mayor of Bangkok A saint among sinners?

By Odile Bosti

ANGKOK — General Chuan-Long Srinuan could not be more different from the town that he is governed as mayor ever since winning a landslide victory in the elections of November 1985. This street army general is as quiet as Bangkok is brash. At 54, he has dedicated himself to a life of austerity, hoping to bring some order to Thailand's chaotic capital by setting an example of selfless public service and inner serenity.

A devout Buddhist, Gen. Srinuan sleeps on a thin mat on the floor of his clean but simple house. He eats just one meal a day — strictly vegetarian — and drinks only water. He and his wife live off his army pension and give back the mayoral salary to be used for the good of Bangkok's estimated 8 million people. Dressed in his general's uniform, the mayor received this reporter in an office dominated by two symbols — the flag of his country and a Buddhist altar, covered with votive offerings.

Following are excerpts from the interview:

Question: As a vegetarian and an ascetic, how do you reconcile yourself with the idea of being the leading figure in a city often cited for prostitution and drug trafficking problems?

Answer: "That's a hard question to answer. My role here is a very sensitive one. My election in 1985 is perhaps proof that the people of this city still retain their traditional spiritual values — I hope not just for reasons of nostalgia. As for me, I've remained faithful to the ideals I've always held — prayer, sincerity, eating little, working hard. I admit that there aren't many people like me in the government but I'm convinced that we're on the right track. I know that I'm appreciated within my own circle and that I'm setting an example without having to get up and preach. That can only be a good thing for the government, just as it is for the people, even if it is very hard to measure the impact."

Q: I've heard that you're attempt-



General Chuan-Long Srinuan

ing to clean up your city and that you yourself go out and sweep the streets once a week. How do people react to this? Have you noticed a difference in the behaviour of your fellow citizens?

A: "The media has somewhat exaggerated things. I don't go out and clean the streets every week because my work schedule doesn't permit it. But it's true that I've done it from time to time in order to give myself a better idea of working conditions for residents, and to become more aware of the security problem in the streets. In addition, my gesture has had the effect of giving some status to a task that people usually carry out without taking into account the huge importance of cleaning in a city that is polluted and overcrowded. As for the effect of my actions, they are real and tangible. Anyone will tell you that Bangkok has become much cleaner over the past 10 years. Before, the streets were constantly piled up with garbage — heaps of rotting refuse that were never cleaned up from the downtown areas."

"Now, the public hygiene situation has vastly improved, which in turn has had an effect on the morale of the people, giving them a greater sense of civic pride. But to go so far as to claim — as some journalists have done

— that I've given back a sense of community to the people of Bangkok is not really being realistic. Bangkok's population explosion is the product of a chaotic exodus from the countryside. The capital has become a seething mass of 8 million people. We are victims of a progress that has not been properly planned — that has developed without any real concern for the quality of life."

Q: Much of Thailand's tourist trade is based on the sexual exploitation of women and most recently of children too. Are you doing something to try and halt this business in Bangkok?

A: "Let's say that I've tried, by giving the people information, by speaking in public, by writing about it. Perhaps I haven't tried hard enough. There's no doubt that there is big business involved, so in a sense it is out of my hands — and not only out of my hands, I fear."

"Of course, that's no reason to encourage this kind of trafficking, or to sit back and do nothing. Thailand is paying the penalty for failing to make the right decisions at the right time when it came to growth and development. We didn't make the right investments. We're a major producer of rice, but since the Vietnam war we've become a playground for foreign tourists. The state has done nothing to improve the situation, because it too has become caught up in this impasse. Fortunately there are some private initiatives which I am doing my best to encourage. It's a cross we have to bear. My only hope is that we can slowly begin to find a way out of this blind alley, that Thailand can one day rectify this shortcoming, a bit like Japan and Taiwan which both suffered deep crises after World War II and have since built up very healthy economies."

Q: "There has recently been a lot of talk in the country about a government plan to legalise prostitution. Various women's groups have been lobbying for the idea to be scrapped. Where do you stand on this issue?"

A: "I've always been against

the legalisation of prostitution in any shape or form. It will leave the door wide open to all sorts of abuse. Making it legal will do no good at all to the image of Thai women who have enough problems as it is. We shouldn't criticise girls who resort to this kind of thing as a means of helping themselves and their families cope with problems for which we can offer no solutions. They should be given other opportunities. But if I had the power, even if it meant slowing down tourism and the influx of foreign currency, I'd introduce a very strict law against the pimps and their customers, because it's they who are to blame, not the girls who are being exploited."

Q: Your people seem to be caught up in a vicious circle of problems tied to rapid growth. Has it reached the point of no return?

A: "Oh, I've shed a lot of illusions along the way. Of course, it's very tempting to give way to pessimism. But I haven't lost all hope. We must look to the future generations, to the children. We've started putting out two weekly television broadcasts aimed at them, as well as a monthly programme which tries to inform them and help them develop a sense of responsibility towards the rest of the community and towards the future. It's done in a very lively way, in a question and answer format. I take part in it regularly."

Q: "What are your other priorities as mayor of Bangkok?"

A: "There are two very pressing areas that are taking up a lot of my time and energy, and really we could do with two people to cope with this swarming capital of 8 million. Aside from the question of cleanliness and public health, the toughest problem that my team is having to deal with is providing some form of protection against the floods which bring this city to a standstill during the rainy season. These floods don't just do a lot of damage; they also have a paralysing effect both on the people and on the economy, and the result is disastrous."



Aenne Burda, photo, proprietor of the world's largest fashion publishing house in Offenburg, Federal Republic of Germany, is as enterprising as ever at the age of 80. She was recently awarded the Jakob Fugger Medal in Munich in recognition of her outstanding services to magazine publishing. The speech in her honour was made by Bavarian Prime Minister Max Streibl.

Grande dame, 80, world's largest fashion publisher

By Kurt Pleyer

OFFENBURG (DaD) — Millions of women all over the world make dresses and blouses to patterns from Aenne Burda's fashion magazines, published in 17 languages in a print run of 14 million copies. Yet the Offenburg publisher, who has just turned 80, is anything but a "fashion dictator" keen to gain attention with strikingly unusual models and designs. She aims to cater for women of all ages, women "like you and me" who are keen to look smart and happy to rely on the practical advice provided by the Offenburg publishing house, the largest fashion publishers in the world. Frau Burda publishes a fashion magazine, Burda Moden, dress patterns, all manner of special magazines and three general interest magazines for women.

"Women who want to succeed must work hard," is Frau Burda's motto. She is a train driver's daughter who married Franz Burda (he led the company to its commanding heights) and had three sons, now aged 50 to 57, who took over from their father when he died in 1985. But Aenne

Burda did not make do with the role of housewife and mother. She wanted to hold her own in a career. In 1949 she took over a small fashion publishing house that was on the brink of bankruptcy. When she took it over the company had a payroll of 48. It now has a payroll of 570 and grosses over DM200m a year in turnover.

In her foreign activities Frau Burda is way ahead of many other German publishers. She can rightly claim to be an ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in fashion matters. When she and Mrs. Gorbachev launched the Russian edition of Burda Moden in Moscow, she said: "What takes diplomats and officials hard work is accomplished with ease by fashion." The Russian edition was launched with a print run of 100,000 copies. It now sells 1,300,000 copies, and demand is still brisk. A Hungarian edition is in the pipeline.

At 80 Frau Burda is still an attractive woman, and she has no intention of taking it easy. She is still the life and soul of the firm, and hard work has not deprived her of her personal charm and her sense of humour.

Ethiopia's 'lost children' disclose a sister

By Reid G. Miller
The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA — Two siblings, thought to be the legendary lost white children of Ethiopia, have revealed the existence of a sister.

The three appeared together for the first time last week at the U.S. embassy for an interview with consul Richard Adams in an attempt to find their parents.

Meanwhile, a representative of the international rescue committee, a voluntary, non-partisan agency that resettles, rehabilitates and assists refugees, arrived in Ethiopia's capital to try to take all three youngsters to the United States.

"We are prepared to arrange transportation, care and education for them in the States," said Ron Layner, an author and freelance journalist from Florida.

Layner and Adams acknowledged that could be difficult. Haile Mariam Gedessa and his sisters, Tegest and Lessa, are considered to be Ethiopian nationals, at least for now.

Haile Mariam and Tegest first came to the attention of U.S. officials when they were brought to the embassy by an Ethiopian friend in June.

In their initial interview with then-consul Carol L. Rose, who retired from the foreign service earlier this month, they made no mention of their sister Lessa. They say they feared for her safety.

But in their interview with the new consul, the three haltingly told essentially the same story that Haile Mariam and Tegest related through an interpreter to Mrs. Rose.

It is a tale of being taken from a white family some 20 years ago by

their Ethiopian housekeeper to live with his sister and brother-in-law, a couple of the Oromo tribe who raised them as orphans.

It was Adams' first chance to meet and talk with any of the three, all thought to be in their early 20s. An Associated Press reporter was allowed to sit in on the two-hour interview.

No one of the youngsters has a clear recollection of their real parents, but they spoke for the first time of seeing a photo album in the mud and grass-thatched hut that became their home.

The album, they said, contained pictures showing them as small children with their white parents. Haile Mariam said the photos were destroyed in a fire that razed their foster parents' home years ago.

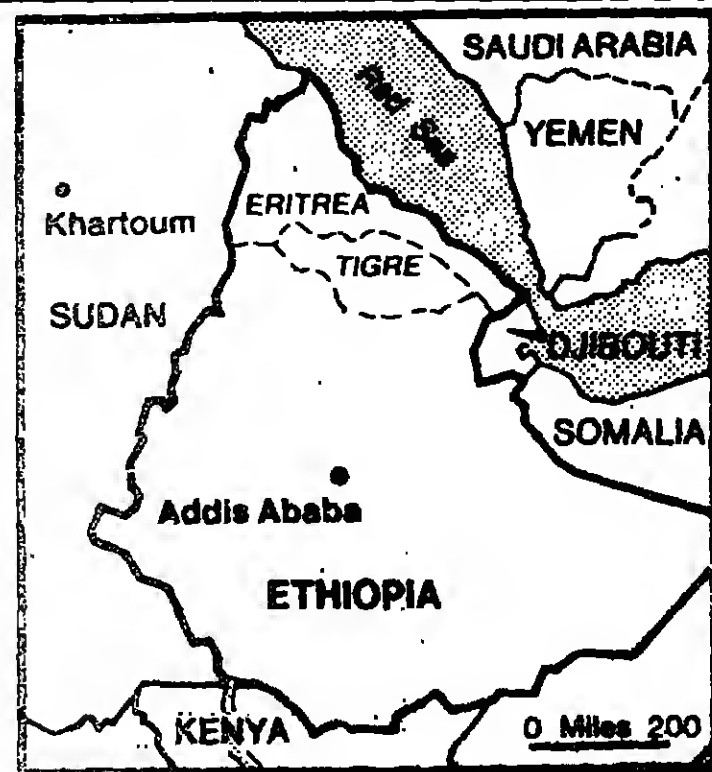
The three are not sure why they were taken to live with the tribal couple but believe their father became ill and had to be evacuated from Ethiopia, accompanied by their mother.

The story of two lost white children is a legendary one in Ethiopia, known by many people and told in many variations. Most tell of a kidnapping.

Rose, Adams and others think the story may have been kept alive by occasional sightings of Haile Mariam and Lessa, who were raised together by the Oromo couple. Tegest was given to another family as a maid.

But the embassy has been unable to find any record of the youngsters or their parents, although Adams said a few vague clues have come to light since their story was told publicly earlier this month in an AP story distributed worldwide.

Adams and an Ethiopian attor-



ney hired by the embassy are trying to track down those clues. One, Adams said, was a tip in a letter mailed from Addis Ababa that the father had been a chemist at a local brewery.

The AP article also brought some donations of cash and checks and many more offers of help for the youngsters, both to the embassy and to AP's New York headquarters.

The Oromo woman who raised the three says they were brought to her and her husband by her brother, who died shortly afterward. She denied they had been kidnapped, but was vague about her brother's motives.

"They were beautiful children, very white," she told reporters through an interpreter at her farm about 80 kilometres outside the capital. She is in her 70s now and divorced.

Adams' interview of the three young people, who tell of a lifetime of physical abuse and mistreatment by their foster father

and other villagers because of their appearance, broke off when they became agitated.

The interpreter said they were tired of retelling their story to consular officers and reporters without result and frightened by the increased hostility of fellow villagers that their outcries have brought them.

Adams took up an office collection to pay their rent for a month in a small apartment in the capital, had them resented and urged them to return to the embassy for further talks.

"If only we can jog their memories enough, we may be able to find further clues to their identities and their parents," the consul said.

Just before the interview ended, Haile Mariam said:

"Our thought is that if our parents are dead, why have't our grandparents, aunts or uncles come looking for us? This is what we always think. This is what we don't understand."

Drug helps women stop pulling out their hair

By Daniel Q. Haney

The Associated Press

BOSTON — An experimental drug can help people conquer an overwhelming urge to tear out their hair, a surprisingly common disorder that affects millions of women in the United States, leaving some bald, researchers say.

Victims of trichotillomania cannot stop themselves from plucking out their eyebrows and eyelashes as well as the hair on their head.

A new medicine known as Clomipramine can help people reduce their hair pulling and sometimes stop it entirely, according to a report in New England Journal of Medicine.

The drug "allows them to say 'no,'" said Dr. Susan E. Swedo. "They still have the urge, but their ability to resist is increased."

Estimates of the number of people in the United States with trichotillomania range as high as

8 million, although Swedo said 2 million to 4 million is probably more accurate. Virtually all are women.

Swedo, a researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health, tested Clomipramine on 13 women. Three stopped pulling their hair, while the rest had at least a 50 per cent reduction in the severity of their symptoms.

Dr. Alan Metz of Tufts medical school noted that many victims have relatively mild symptoms.

Researchers said that hair-pullers frequently cover their obsession by painting on eyebrows or wearing wigs. Some who are left with a fringe of hair comb the remaining strands over the top, just as balding men do. Others lie that they are taking chemotherapy.

"They are convinced that they are crazy," said Swedo.

Victims of the obsession, which frequently starts just after puberty, often don't realise they have a

recognised — and treatable — disorder. In fact, nine of the patients who took part in the latest study sought doctors' help after learning about a related ailment known as obsessive-compulsive disorder on a television report last year.

Clomipramine has been shown in other studies to be effective in helping people with obsessive-compulsive disorder. The medicine has not yet been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for routine use. However, doctors can obtain it for treating severe cases.

A newly approved drug called Fluoxetine, or prozac, also appears to be effective against obsessive-compulsive disorder and hair pulling, although it has not been as widely tested as Clomipramine.

Dr. Michael A. Jenike of Massachusetts General Hospital said that until the development of these medicines, obsessive-com-

pulsive disorder "was considered to be untreatable. Now we can get many people completely better or at least well enough so they can function. It's not an exaggeration to call this a breakthrough."

The obsessive compulsive foundation estimates that as many as 5 million people in the United States have that anxiety disorder. Typically, they have irrational compulsions to do something over and over, such as wash their hands or make sure the door is locked. They may wash for five hours a day or check the door 50 or 60 times, even though they realise the repetition is senseless.

Both Clomipramine and Fluoxetine also can be used to treat depression. The drugs appear to relieve hair pulling and other obsessive behaviour by increasing the brain's supply of a chemical messenger known as serotonin.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

مكتبة الأمل

Tunisian premier suggests Keynesian-style investment

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche Monday recommended a Keynesian-style policy of investment to stimulate the economy and cut unemployment.

Government investment in public works and the petrochemical industry, cut drastically under a World Bank-approved adjustment programme in 1986, could play a part in the expansion, Baccouche told an extraordinary session of parliament.

"We are going to give first priority to increasing the volume of investment by mobilising foreign and domestic resources to create new jobs," he said.

"Public investment can play its role in reviving major projects... in the fertiliser and energy sectors and can give greater momentum to the programme to prevent soil erosion, plant forests and build dams and roads," he added.

Baccouche said the private sector had failed to fill the investment gap left when the state cut its investment budget and this contributed to sluggish growth in 1988 and 1989.

In 1988 the Tunisian economy grew 1.6 per cent and the forecast for this year has been cut to 3.1 per cent because of a second poor harvest in succession.

Total investment in Tunisia fell sharply every year from 1984 until 1988, when it picked up by one per cent in real terms. The drop in state investment has been even steeper.

Baccouche's recommendations are in contrast with those of

central bank governor Ismail Khellil, an economic liberal who emphasises privatisation and strict monetary controls.

The prime minister said unemployment worsened in 1988 because 42,000 new non-agricultural jobs did not make up for 50,000 farming jobs lost because of drought.

The demand for jobs increased 27,000 at the same time, according to central bank figures, and Baccouche said the unemployment rate now stood at 15 per cent, excluding people between the ages of 15 and 17.



Hedi Baccouche

Baccouche gave no details of any major projects under consideration and did not say if they would affect the government's budget deficit.

ABJ chief defends Jordanian banks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ) Dr. Abdalla Al Malki, who is also editor-in-chief of the ABJ's monthly Arabic magazine Banks in Jordan, Tuesday expressed reservations over Monday's Jordan Times' article: Banking experience is "static".

Dr. Al Malki told the Jordan Times that the article was harsh and sounding general when it was only based on few limited cases. However, he did not rule out that irregularities do occur but, he warned, that idealism is unsustainable and that Jordanian banks are among the best qualified in the region.

The respected banker, who also writes regularly an economic column in the Al Dustour daily, declined to go in detail saying that he intends to express his views in the Banks in Jordan magazine.

The Jordan Times thanks Dr. Malki for his remarks and eagerly awaits his comments which will be translated and published as soon as it appears.



Abdalla Al Malki

Biggest combination in recent memory

Banking giants agree to merge

TOKYO (AP) — Mitsui Bank and Taiyō Kobe Bank have agreed to merge next April to create the second-largest bank in the world, officials of the two companies announced Tuesday.

Analysts said the merger is the biggest international combination in recent memory.

"In terms of sheer scale there's nothing like it," said Simon Smithson, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities. "It dwarfs anything that exists" in other countries, he added.

The new bank will be second in total assets only to Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, ranked the largest in the world in terms of assets. Currently, Sumitomo Bank is the second-largest bank in Japan.

Mitsui Bank, the country's seventh-largest bank, and Taiyō Kobe, the eighth largest, will merge into a new bank to be called Taiyō Kobe Mitsui Bank as of April 1, said Kenichi Suematsu, president of Mitsui Bank.

"Facing today's globalisation and liberalisation of the financial world... a bank must have a certain degree of size or quality can't follow," said Suematsu, who will become the president of the new bank.

"We have judged that forming a new bank by a merger will lead to providing the best financial and information services to our customers," said Yasuo Matsushita, president of Taiyō Kobe Bank, who will become chairman of the new bank.

Suematsu and Matsushita, who described themselves as close friends for more than 20 years, said they hope the merger will strengthen their banks' domestic and international networks, and expand and rationalise operations to meet increasingly diverse needs.

The finance ministry and banking officials generally praised the merger.

"I welcome the decision by both banks to merge, given the liberalisation and internationalisation of the financial market," said Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. "I think it is timely to bolster the operation by utilising increased profits to provide a diversity of services to customers in and out of the country."

Kuniji Miyazaki, president of the Federation of Bankers' Associations of Japan and also of Japan's largest bank, Daiichi-Kangyo Bank, hailed what he called a "courageous decision" by the banks' managements, Kyodo News Service reported.

Mitsui Bank, one of the oldest banks in this country, founded in 1876, had available funds of 21.138 trillion yen, or \$146.79 billion, at the end of March 1989, 9,760 employees, and 242 branches in Japan and overseas. Taiyō Kobe had funds of 18.511 trillion yen, or \$128.54

billion, 12,931 employees and 374 branches, according to statistics released by both banks.

Mitsui bank is capitalised at \$1.36 billion, while Taiyō Kobe Bank is capitalised at \$1.25 billion.

It will be the second major merger for Taiyō Kobe Bank, which was formed by a merger between Taiyō Bank and Kobe Bank in 1973.

Matsushita and Suematsu stressed that the deal is an equal merger, but said the two companies will exchange shares at the rate of eight Mitsui shares for 10 Taiyō Kobe shares. They said the name of the new bank will be reviewed and changed in three years because it is "too long," said Suematsu.

The bank will be known as Mitsui Taiyō Kobe Bank in English, reversing the names in the Japanese version, Taiyō Kobe Mitsui Ginko, company officials said.

Morocco 'sneakily' ups prices

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan government has discreetly raised the prices of subsidised staple foods without making any official announcement.

Grocers said that in the past week the prices of bread, flour, sugar, cooking oil and butter were raised by between six and 10 per cent.

The state-controlled media and pro-government newspapers have ignored the increases. Opposition parties said the "sneak increases" were introduced to avoid discontent of the kind that erupted into widespread rioting in January 1984 in protest against economic hardships.

The communist daily Al Bawane said higher cereal prices had "more than than devoured

this year's increase in legal minimum wages."

At a meeting with newspaper publishers at the weekend, Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri gave no details of the increases but said they were an incentive to farmers to produce more.

He said the state was still subsidising one-third of sugar and cereal prices. The International Monetary Fund has been urging Morocco to abolish subsidies as part of a financial restructuring programme.

Meanwhile, Morocco is enjoying a boom in tourism, with the number of visitors in the first half of the year rising by a record 45 per cent.

But tourism professionals said

the bonanza was badly bedevilled by bureaucracy, bloated bills, bakhshish and the badgering of tourists by guides and hustlers.

A foreign ministry statement Monday said the number of tourists visiting Morocco rose to 1,170,000 in the first six months of 1989 from 800,000 in the same period last year.

In the first three months, tourism earned 1.97 billion dirhams (\$228 million), a rise of 13.5 per cent on the first quarter of 1988. The ministry said there was a relative decline in the number of tourists going to the southern seaside resort of Agadir "because of the specific conjuncture in certain European countries."

The professional weekly La Vie Touristique described Agadir as a black spot and said the vast

majority of visitors were so dissatisfied they would never go back.

It quoted a West German tour organiser as saying that only three per cent of the tourists returned to Agadir a second time.

The tour organiser said it often took two to three hours to go through bureaucratic formalities at Agadir airport, while hotel service was surly and overpriced.

Mediocre hotel meals were so expensive that many tourists bought their food at grocery shops, he said. A bottle of mineral water cost five times in a hotel as in a local shop.

He also said tourist guides and bazaar hustlers often pestered tourists walking around town.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Jordan's cost of living surges 29%

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's cost of living jumped 29.6 per cent in the year to July, reflecting price rises fuelled by a readjustment in the value of the dinar, official figures show. The July index rose 30.5 points to 133.6 from 103.1 a year earlier, the Statistics Department said. In the same period the dinar lost 34 per cent of its dollar value at the Central Bank rate and 60 per cent on the free market. But economists say a rise in the dinar this month after the introduction of a dual exchange rate and an influx of Arab aid should brake the inflationary surge. The government aims to keep 1989 inflation to the 14 per cent targeted in deal with the International Monetary Fund, which has given Jordan a standby credit and other funds. Latest Central Bank figures show the wholesale price index, often a pointer to cost of living rises, reached 194.1 in June from 139.8 a year earlier, an increase of 38 per cent.

Iraq clinches deals with Jordanians

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Iraqi Company for Trade Fairs and Commercial Services has concluded a number of contracts with Jordanian firms and businessmen to market Iraqi products in Jordan. A company spokesman said that JD 2.85 million worth of Iraqi products will be sold to Jordan through these contracts. The products, which will be sold through the Iraqi Commercial Centre in Amman, include textiles, blankets, acids and carpets.

Economic Seminar opens Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arrangements for holding a seminar to stimulate the private sector's operations were discussed at the Amman Chamber of Industry Tuesday. The two-day regional seminar, due to open Sunday, will review working papers on the private sector and ways to boost its activities especially in exports to new markets abroad. The seminar, which is organised by the chamber in cooperation with the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) office in Jordan will be attended by representatives of government and private institutions in Egypt, Tunisia, North Yemen, Turkey, Cyprus and Jordan.

Kuwait lends Egypt \$32.5 million

CAIRO (AP) — Kuwait and Egypt signed trade and aid agreements Tuesday. One agreement provides for a Kuwaiti soft loan of 10 million dinars (\$32.5) to develop Egypt's iron and steel works south of Cairo. The Soviet Union built the plant in the 1960s. The agreement gives Egypt 15 years to repay, at 3.5 per cent interest, after a four-year grace period. Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency said the two sides also signed a trade agreement that includes reciprocal customs privileges. It gave no details. The volume of trade between the two countries in 1988 was about 94 million Egyptian pounds (\$37 million) and the agency said the aim of the new agreement was to boost exchanges.

Australia begins 'clean wool' drive

SYDNEY (R) — Beer cans, cigarette butts and even the occasional aborigine's singlet are just some of the unwelcome additions found in Australian wool exports. The Wool Council, a leading industry body, has said it was preparing a major campaign to reduce contamination of wool, until recently Australia's largest export earner. Executive director David Coombes said contamination had been a problem for many years, with baling twine and the synthetic fibres of the bales the usual culprits. "We have all heard horror stories about the cost of contamination to wool processors," Chairman John McCracken said in a statement. "The 50,000 dollar (\$40,000) cloth damaged by a piece of black baling twine and the gate hinge which wrecked 250,000 dollars (\$200,000) worth of high tech scouring equipment. Woolgrowers (sheep farmers) must realise that eventually these costs are passed back, and are reflected in lower prices at auction," he stressed.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.5785/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1710/20	Canadian dollar
	1.9460/67	Deutschmarks
	2.1943/50	Dutch guilders
	1.6760/70	Swiss francs
	40.60/70	Belgian francs
	6.5600/50	French francs
	1397/1398	Italian lire
	143.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.5880/5930	Swedish crowns
	7.1025/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.5775/5825	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	360.25/360.75	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed higher and brokers said the trend would continue. The All Ordinaries ended 10.8 points up at 1,781.8.

TOKYO — Arbitrageurs playing the market and dealers opening fresh positions buffeted prices until they closed firmer in thin trade. The Nikkei gained 80.24 points to close at 34,687.65.

HONG KONG — Share prices slid below the crucial 2,500 support level with brokers blaming a lack of interest for their decline. The Hang Seng index fell 28.84 to end at 2,487.94.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.42 points to 1,342.54.

BOMBAY — Small investors, apparently thinking declines of the past two months may have bottomed out, pushed shares sharply higher for the second day in a row. Tata Steel gained 8.75 rupees to 1,233.75.

FRANKFURT — The DAX index edged up 1.31 points to 1,597.18. "This is what happens when people run out of ideas," said a dealer, noting that investors were mainly interested in selected blue chips and specialty stocks.

ZURICH — Share prices were undermined by press speculation that the Federal Banking Commission would not approve a new holding structure for Credit Suisse. The all-share index lost 7.9 points to 1,218.7.

PARIS — The market shrugged off a wider than expected July trade deficit. The 50-share indicator lost 0.09 per cent.

LONDON — Recent gains have made buyers cautious. "It's getting to the stage where it's difficult to justify," said one trader. At 1535 GMT the FTSE index was down 15.7 to 2,381.7.

NEW YORK — Anxiety ahead of August jobs data due Friday kept many investors on the sidelines. At 1536 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were 6.09 lower at 2737.27.

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For further information please call: 641 993
Saturday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and Wednesday 4-6 p.m.

TENDER'S NOTICE

The Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tender which is part of the 7th Education Project No. 2890-JO, sponsored by the World Bank.

Tender's No.	Title	Fees J.D.
2/89	Computer	10,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender documents from Procurement Division at the Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education, starting August 26th, 1989 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10.00 a.m. on Sept. 26th, 1989.

Head of Special Tenders Committee

TO LET

Fully furnished 3 bedrooms, 2nd complete floor apartment in the 4th Circle area — Jabal Amman, tel. lines + independent utilities of W & E & CH and they are very nicely furnished.

For more information please call Tel. No. 817960 from 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 p.m. every day.

FOR RENT

MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENTS

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Living room, dining room, kitchen and baths, central heating, telephones.

Location: A, B, C in Shmeisani (near Birds Garden)
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For more information call 641443, 642351, 687862.

FOR RENT

1. A building consisting of 6 flats each flat of two bedrooms, salon and dining room.
2. Deluxe furnished apartment of two rooms, salon, dining room with central heating, garage and garden and telephone.

Location: Jabal Hussein, Safad Street

For information please call 688453.

Iraq joins campaign against EC tariff rules

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Iraqi Oil Minister Issem Chalabi was joined Gulf leaders who advocate easy access for their petrochemical products in European markets the Al Yawm daily reported Tuesday.

The report came on the eve of Wednesday a meeting in Manama of representatives of the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Community (EC).

The GCC, which groups Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, has been campaigning to overcome EC protective tariffs.

"We care very much about the attitude of consumer states toward Arab industrial products," Chalabi said in an interview with Al Yawm.

There should be cooperation and coordination in policies to guarantee that Arab products gain markets in full freedom," he added.

VILLA FOR RENT

Located in Abdoun and suitable for a diplomatic corps. The villa is recently built and consists of 2 floors with 7 bedrooms, salons, several bathrooms, 2 kitchens, an annex for maids, well-kept garden, and spacious garage for several cars. The villa is supplied with the most modern equipment and has a distinguished design. It also has internal decorations with a great view and ultra deluxe furnishings.

For further details please call 602161 Amman. No mediators accepted.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Danny Devito
Joe Piscopo in
WISE GUYS

Show: 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **ALJAWH** Tel: 675571

Clint Eastwood in
DIRTY HARRY
in
THE DEAD POOL

Shows: 12:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Cinema **PIAZZA** Tel: 677420

RED SCORPION

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 10:30, p.m.

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For more information please call
Wael Real Estate
Tel: 685342

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, August 29, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	601.2	607.2
Pound Sterling	985.7	985.2
Deutschmark	307.6	310.7
Swiss franc	356.9	360.5
French franc	91.3	92.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	417.1	421.3
Dutch guilder	272.9	275.6
Swedish crown	91.0	91.5
Italian lire (for 100)	43.0	43.4
Belgian franc (for 100)	147.3	148.3

American baseball Boston beats Detroit

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Esasky hit his 26th homer, a three-run shot in the first inning, and took over the American League RBI lead with 93 as the Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-3 Monday night for a five-game sweep.

The Tigers have lost nine straight games. The last time Detroit was swept in a five-game series was July 31-Aug. 3, 1975, also at Fenway Park — the last time the Red Sox swept a five-game series.

Esasky's three-run homer off Jeff Robinson, 3-4, in the first inning enabled him to pass Texas' Ruben Sierra, who has 923 RBIs. Mike Boddicker, 12-9, shut out the Tigers on three singles for five innings before giving and getting relief help in the seventh as the Red Sox extended their longest winning streak of the year to seven games.

Athletics 7, Yankees 3

Dave Stewart became baseball's first 18-game winner, Dave Parker and Walt Weiss homered during a barrage of eight straight hits and Oakland beat New York. Oakland got 16 hits and moved 1 and 1-2 games ahead of idle California in the American League West. The Yankees lost their fifth straight game and fell to 2-10 under manager Buckle Dent, who held a pregame meeting to discuss the demise.

Stewart, 18-8, moved ahead of Mike Scott and Joe Magrane as the top winner in the major

leagues. He got closer to his third straight 20-victory season, a feat that has not been accomplished since Jim Palmer from 1975-78. Brewers 8, Blue Jays 2

Robin Yount had three hits, including his 15th homer, and newcomer Ed Romero drove in two runs as Milwaukee snapped a six-game losing streak by beating Toronto.

The loss dropped the second-place Blue Jays two games behind idle Baltimore in the American League East.

Twins 5, Mariners 4

Seattle lost its club-record tying 12th straight game as Kirby Puckett doubled home Dan Gladden with two outs in the 10th inning to lift Minnesota over the Mariners.

The loss tied Seattle's 12-game losing streak set in August 1980. Seattle last won on Aug. 15, a 2-0 victory over Texas. The Twins have won six straight.

With one out in the 10th, Wally Backman singled and was forced at second on Gladden's grounder to third before Puckett doubled up the right-center field gap against reliever Mike Schooler, 1-5.

Jeff Reardon, 5-3, who blew a save opportunity in the ninth, retired Seattle in order in the 10th inning for the victory.

Seattle rallied with two outs in the top of the ninth off Reardon to tie the score 4-4 as Harold Reynolds singled and scored on Greg Briley's double.

AUSTRIA TO STRENGTHEN DEFENCE AGAINST SOVIETS: Austria will strengthen their defence for an important World Cup qualifying match against the Soviet Union next week, manager Josef Hickersberger said Tuesday. "We shall field a defensive line-up with only two men up front and concentrate on containing the Russians who are the clear favourites," Hickersberger said after naming his 17-man squad for the September 6 match in Vienna. The team line-up will be announced only just before the match but Hickersberger said he was counting on defender Peter Artnier, who sat out the last match against Iceland which the Austrians won 2-1, to marshal his defence.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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KNOW YOUR SUIT COMBINATIONS

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K 9 5
♥ A 7 3
♦ Q J
♣ K J 7 4

WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ K 10 7 6
♣ 10 9 8 5

EAST
♠ A 15
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A 9 8 4 3
♣ Q 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 2
♥ K 6 4
♦ 5 2
♣ A 4 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣.
"How do you play this suit combination: K J x x opposite A x x?" writes a reader from the Bronx. That depends. If you need four tricks from the suit, or if you can't afford to lose a trick in the suit, the percentage play is to cash the ace and then finesse. But what if you need only three tricks? Take a look at today's hand.

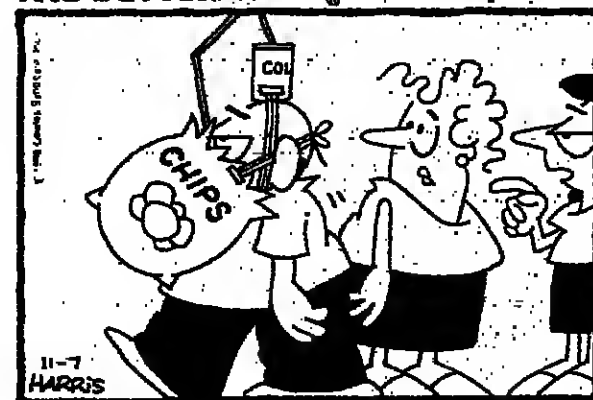
The road to four spades was quick and easy. With an opening bid facing a minimum opening, South simply bid game once the fit was located.

West led the top of his heart sequence. Declarer could count nine fast tricks. Barring a defensive blunder, the only place to find the 10th trick was in the club suit. He won the king of hearts, drew trumps, cashed the ace of clubs and finessed the jack. East took his queen, and the defenders cashed two diamond tricks before exiting with a heart. When the clubs did not split evenly the defenders had to come to a heart trick for down one.

But look what might have happened had declarer tackled the clubs differently. After drawing trumps, he should cash the king and ace of clubs. If the queen drops, as it does here, the hand is over. If it does not come tumbling down, declarer simply continues with a club toward the jack. That guarantees a third club trick, and with it the contract, whenever West has the queen of clubs or the suit breaks evenly. There are plenty of entries to the table's good club.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"He needs his hands free to work the TV remote control."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PEXLE
CUMIS
KELLY
SOUTID



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:
Yesterday's Jumbles: SQUAB CHAOS BELFRY UNIQUE
Answer: One woman's hobby might be another woman's this—HUSBY.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

JORDAN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM were Monday honored by the Damascus branch of Aramex International Company, the international courier company of Jordan. Aramex hosted a dinner in honor of the national team who is participating in the Arab Basketball Championship currently under way in Damascus, Syria. The Jordan all-stars have managed to reach the semifinal berth in this annual pan-Arab tournament after a winning streak over Syria, Palestine and Algeria. Jordan was scheduled to play Egypt Tuesday night in a crucial semi-final game.

EVERT REELECTED WITA PRESIDENT: Chris Evert, who is ending her reign as one of the best players in women's tennis, will continue to lead the women's game off the court. Evert has been elected president of the Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) for a record eighth term. WITA announced Monday. Evert, who announced last week that she would be leaving full-time tennis after the current U.S. Open championships, will be filling the post for the seventh time in a row.

FIFA PLEASED WITH ITALIAN STADIUMS: FIFA inspectors said Monday they were pleased with improvement work at Italian stadiums ahead of the 1990 World Cup finals. But they advised countries bidding to stage the finals in the future that they could learn from the Italian experience. "If they come to Italy they will realise the complexity of the work and the problems they will have to face," FIFA Vice-President Hermann Neuberger said. "I think that afterwards many of them would withdraw. Neuberger said he was 'pleasantly surprised' at progress in building a new 70,000-seat stadium in Turin after fears earlier this year that the deadline for completion might not be met.

SWEDEN RELY ON LIVERPOOL, BENFICA PLAYERS: Sweden manager Olle Nordin Monday announced a squad built around Liverpool sweeper Glenn Hysen and Benfica's Jonas Thern and Mats Magnusson for the World Cup qualifier against England in Stockholm on September 6. The 18-man squad for the European group two tie includes eight players with Portuguese, English, Dutch, French and Swiss clubs. Nordin said he had dropped midfielder Stefan Rehn, who recently joined English club Everton hat has yet to make his league debut, from the squad.

PALLISTER SIGNS FOR MANCHESTER: Middlesbrough central defender, Gary Pallister joined Manchester United on Monday for a British club record fee of £2.3 million (\$3.6 million). Middlesbrough, relegated to the English second division last season, originally turned down a £1.8 million (\$2.8 million) bid for Pallister, who has won two full England caps. But talks were reopened Monday night when United manager Alex Ferguson offered a further £500,000 (\$785,000). Ferguson said Pallister had travelled to Manchester on Monday and agreed personal terms. (R)

PLATINI KEEPS NEW-LOOK SQUAD FOR NORWAY MATCH: French coach Michel Platini kept faith with the young squad that defeated Sweden in a friendly match 12 days ago when he announced the 16-strong line-up for a World Cup qualifier against Norway in Oslo next week. The only change in the squad to play Norway on September 5 was the reserve goalkeeper, with the more experienced Bruno Martini replacing Gilles Roussel. France, who have suffered a series of disastrous defeats since Platini took control, have no realistic hope of qualifying from the European group five for next year's World Cup finals in Italy. They have earned only four points, five less than group leaders Scotland. (R)

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day remains quiet until the afternoon when a sense of adventure and fun is stirred up. Indulge in pleasurable activities that will be enjoyed more so with someone you already know.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can be quick to fight, and to forget. Remember, some people hold grudges habitually.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Express your love of music and art. Your own talents are in a good cycle. A loving and interesting situation is approaching.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A lunch companion has interesting ideas. You may lack your usual flexibility today. Use your versatile skills.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may be clinging to a relationship that needs stimulation, and modification. You may have over committed yourself.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The social atmosphere is revealing. It is a better time to plan, than to do. Anger and arrogance are a devastating combination.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A misunderstanding and results in confusion. A change in schedule will improve matters. Disorganization is frustrating and causes delays.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Start

important projects. Over-confidence and complacency can cause opportunities to pass by unnoticed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Too many compliments can give you a swelled head, even though you have earned the praise. Social matters are stimulating.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may suffer from a general lack of interest. Coasting along with the tide of fate may serve your purpose best.

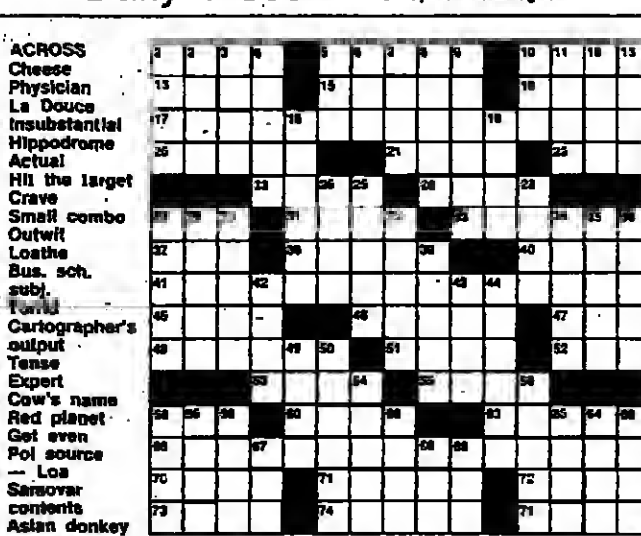
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Go for it, do it, and don't waste any time getting started. Your ideas bear fruit with your present take-charge attitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You pride yourself on fairness and humanitarian understanding. Avoid someone who has disappointed you in the past.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Set the record straight with the person who asks for help but rejects good advice. Jealousy can destroy a good friendship.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will be effervescent and spontaneous. Lucky situations and good fortune will be there for today's children. They will get what they need, when they need it, but without any extras. Expect your child to be hardworking, prudent, kind, humble and sociable.

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel Flegner



ACROSS
1 Cheese
3 Physician
10 La Douce
14 Insubstantial
15 Hippodrome
16 Actual
17 Hit the target
20 Grave
21 Small combo
22 Outwit
23 Loathe
25 Bus, sch. sub.
26 Turbul
31 Cartographer's output
33 Tense
37 Expert
38 Cow's name
40 Red planet
41 Get even
45 Poi source
46 — Loa
47 Gasover contents
48 Asian donkey
51 Blemish
52 Play pad
53 Race track
55 Blade for
56 Albino
57 Ureous
58 In a quandary
61 Barrier
62 Related maternally
63 Trubek
64 Glossy paint
65 Living die
70 Scarce
71 Electrified particle
72 "Beetle" dog
73 Oil cartel
74 Minimum
75 Feels sorry

DOWN
1 Like ABC
2 Cubes
3 Verso, copper center
4 Aromatic gum
5 Depressed
6 Notable period
7 Obligation
8 Habitats
9 Printed fabric
10 Tasting op.
11 Great
12 Noted clinic
13 Trubek
14 Glossy paint
15 Living die
16 Legend
17 — Downs
18 Verso captain
19 Rust
20 East expense
21 Aquarium fish
22 — Warner
23 Pub game
25 Welcome
26 Lamb place
27 Bring out
28 Take-out
29 Words
30 Shot precursor
31 Lunch
32 Gabor at al.
33 Scalpings
34 Sierra
35 Which of —
36 Continental
37 TV show type
38 Untainted
39 Vest La
40 Scalpings
41 Sierra
42 Head of France
43 Slaughter of baseball
44 — room
45 Dams goddess
46 Central
47 Glibber?

U.S. OPEN OPENS McEnroe, Graf, Wilander dominate 1st day

NEW YORK (AP)—A bunch of bananas and brownies couldn't help ailing Brad Gilbert keep his streak alive, but John McEnroe looked fit and fast in his first-round victory Monday at the U.S. Open.

Gilbert, a menace on the tennis courts the past month with three straight titles, and a dark horse to win here, once again picked the wrong time to get sick.

He woke up with a stomach virus after an eating binge Sunday night with fellow pro Robert Seguso and succumbed to cramps and fatigue as his streak ended against unseeded Todd Witsken.

The same ailment hit Gilbert seven years ago, and he hopes it will be another seven years before it happens again.

"It's God's way of torturing you when you lose," Gilbert said. Gilbert shouted "concentrate" and asked himself dozens of questions on the court but couldn't find the answers he needed as he fell 4-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a nearly four-hour match.

Gilbert, seeded eighth, was the only loser among the top seeds on a gray, rain-threatening first day

at the \$5.1 million tournament. McEnroe, who missed the French open because of a back injury and hurt his shoulder in the Wimbledon semifinals, had no problem beating Eric Winogradsky 6-1, 6-4, 6-4. McEnroe showed a powerful serve again, coupled with quick, fluid movement to the net, indicating he may be ready to

win his first grand slam event since capturing the open in 1984.

Defending women's champion Steffi Graf of West Germany dispatched Japan's Etsuko Inoue 6-3, 6-1, and defending men's champion and fifth seed Mats Wilander of Sweden beat Austria's Horst Skoff 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. Women's fifth seed, Zina Garrison, beat Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 6-1.

Albert Mancini of Argentina struggled past Jonathan Canter 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3, and Aaron Krickstein, 14th seeded, beat Richard Matsuzewski 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. Women's 13th seed Natalia

Zvereva of the Soviet Union beat Pascale Paradis of France 1-6, 6-4, 7-6, and 15th seed Conchita Martinez of Spain beat Sandra Birch 6-3, 6-2.

Gilbert looked weak, while Witsken seemed buoyant, pumping himself up, punching the air after good shots and winning on passing shots that whistled by Gilbert.

Shortly before the match, Gilbert suffered diarrhea, which drained him of fluids and caused cramping. It also sent him to the bathroom several times during the match.

"I had depleted my energy. I got tired from the second set on," Gilbert said. "I didn't have any reserve. I didn't have any food in the tank."

Gilbert tried to fuel himself during breaks on the court by wolfing down brownies and bananas, which unfortunately were not ripe and added to his woes. "I think winning all those matches and playing so much tennis is tiring," Witsken said. "I think he might be needing a rest. I don't know if he was tired or sick. I just had so much momentum going."

\$117.9 million for NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin estimated Monday that the U.S. open tennis tournament will boost the city's economy by \$117.9 million during its two-week run.

He said the money will be generated by gate receipts from 450,000 fans, advertising, television sale rights, concession sales, hotel and restaurant receipts, media fees and other direct revenues totaling about \$52.4 million.

"As it ripples through the economy," the comptroller said, "the effective total grows 2.25 times to the \$117.9 million figure."

He said the city treasury will net about \$15 million in direct revenues while the transit authority will get about \$356,000.

Maradona says he will return to Italy

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A newspaper Monday quoted soccer star Diego Maradona as saying he plans to return to Italy this week to rejoin the Napoli team after a messy hold-out, but that he would not be in shape to play for at least one month.

"The decision has already been made," the 28-year-old Argentine soccer star said, according to the sports weekly El Grafico.

Maradona, perhaps the best known athlete in the world, also was quoted in an interview with El Grafico as saying he was planning to return to Italy sometime between Wednesday and Friday.

"I was thinking of returning this Wednesday. ...if not then, I will return Thursday or Friday," he told the Argentine newspaper.

The Italian soccer season kicks off Sunday. But Maradona said he was not in good enough physical condition to begin competition immediately, according to the weekly, which said he



Maradona

appeared to have put on weight.

"In one month, I will be ready to reappear," but not before, he told El Grafico.

The soccer superstar was to have rejoined Napoli by Aug. 3 but has delayed his return repeatedly because of a holdout that involved controversy over money, speculation about his romantic life and even hints of underworld threats.

El Grafico said Maradona denied reports that his life had been threatened.

Asked whether he was enthusiastic about returning to play for Napoli, he was quoted as saying he was going to fulfill the terms of his contract.

"I'm not going to lie to you, I don't like to lie. ...I'm not excited about anything," the publication quoted him as saying.

For weeks, much of Italy has been captivated by the soap opera surrounding the absence of the star, whose transfer from Spain's Barcelona five years ago cost Napoli a record \$11 million.

His relations with the Italian club soured during the past season because of his aversion to team discipline. He often skipped practices and had run-ins with the manager about team tactics.

Despite the tensions with the management and a series of injuries, Maradona played a decisive role in Napoli's first triumph in the UEFA Cup. He led the team to its first Italian league title in 1987.

Maradona conceded that relations were not the best with Napoli team president Luciano Ferlaino, who repeatedly said the soccer star could be sanctioned for not having joined the team earlier.

Officials had threatened to fine Maradona one-half of his \$1.5 million yearly salary and a one-year suspension from the Italian league — a penalty that could threaten his participation in the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Recently, Maradona's agent, Guillermo Coppola, had been sending out mixed signals from Buenos Aires, one day claiming that the Argentine native would never return to Italy again and the next saying he would fly back to Naples soon.

Aouita settles for victory, Grant sets British record

GATESHEAD, England (AP)—While middle-distance king Said Aouita settled for a victory and forgot about records for a day, Dalton Grant leaped to a new British high jump mark and announced he is ready to go much higher.

Aouita overcame hometown favorite Peter Elliott and Kenya's Joseph Cheshire on the final straight to win the mile in 3 minutes, 51.97 seconds Monday at an international track and field meet.

Aouita, a Moroccan who holds world records in five middle-distance events ranging from 1,500 to 5,000 metres, failed in his quest to break Briton Steve

Cram's mile world record of 3:46.32 last Friday at a rainy meet in Brussels, Belgium.

Before the Gateshead meet, he said he would be running to win and not to break Cram's record. He ran comfortably in third place for most of the race, waiting until the final 200 metres to pass Briton Elliott and then overcoming leader Cheshire.

Aouita did not come close to his personal best of 3:46.76 but won the race by several yards. Cheshire was second in 3:52.46 and Elliott, a 1,500-metre silver medalist at Seoul who has been plagued by injuries since the Olympics, was third in 3:52.93.

Grant cleared 7 feet, 8 inches

(2.34 metres) in the high jump to raise his British record for the third time in three weeks. The leap also tied the Commonwealth record held by Nick Saunders of Bermuda.

Grant, 23, failed in three attempts at 7-10, 1-2 (2.40 metres) in the meet, which included men's and women's teams from England, Italy and Australasia, as well as guests such as Aouita and Cheshire.

"I believe I can go over eight feet now (2.44 metres)," Grant said. "It's just a matter of confidence and I'm believing in myself now."

"This was the first time I've attempted 2.40 metres in com-



Said Aouita

petition and I know that I can now compete against the very best. I'm looking forward to jumping in the world cup next month, and I believe I can win it."

Peanuts



Andy Capp





Home of the drug baron ... Colombian soldiers guard a ranch owned by a cartel leader, Pablo Escobar, after it was confiscated by the government in its war against drugs

Top Medellin druglord nabbed

BOGOTA (AP) — Authorities have announced the capture of a major drug trafficking figure wanted in the United States as President Virgilio Barco blamed U.S. drug users for causing the violence wracking his country.

"Those of you who depend on cocaine have created the largest, most vicious criminal enterprise the world has known," Barco said in a videotaped English-language address delivered Monday to U.S. television networks.

Also Monday, U.S. Ambassador Thomas McNamara met privately with Colombia's foreign minister to formally request extradition of a key drug suspect. In Washington, Colombia's justice minister discussed the issues of extradition and U.S. aid with U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

Israeli police questioned two former Israeli military officers Monday about reports they trained gunmen for Colombian cocaine bosses.

The Washington Post newspaper, quoting a confidential report by Colombian security forces, re-

ported Tuesday that at least five Israeli and 11 British mercenaries helped train teams of assassins for Colombian cocaine traffickers and their right-wing allies.

The Colombian army announced that Abraham Majuat, identified as a top financial affairs manager for the drug dealers, was detained last week at a ranch not far from Medellin, the base for the largest cartel. Authorities also seized about 4.5 tonnes of cocaine in the city, the equivalent of about one per cent of Colombia's yearly production, according to U.S. narcotics officials.

Army officials said Majuat was wanted in the United States. Colombian authorities previously have caught three potentially extraditable suspects since they began a nationwide crackdown on the drug bosses after the assassination of a presidential candidate at a rally outside Bogota.

The army also reported that it had raided and seized the estate of a sporting club owner, Eduardo Barrios, in the Caribbean port of Barranquilla. They said the

property allegedly was obtained through smuggling profits. Also seized in two raids in Barranquilla were 8.2 tonnes of marijuana.

Foreign Ministry officials said McNamara and Foreign Minister Julio Londoño Paredes met for 20 minutes Monday to discuss re-establishing a system of quotas for exports of coffee, once Colombia's principal cash product.

A meeting between the two officials was required to formally request the extradition of Eduardo Martinez Romero, an alleged finance chief for the Medellin cocaine cartel.

For days, U.S. embassy officials and Colombian authorities have refused comment on any extradition proceedings. The prospect of U.S. extradition is believed to worry Colombia's drug barons, who frequently kill, threaten or bribe local officials to avoid being sent to the United States.

Martinez was captured Aug. 20, two days after assassins hired by drug traffickers killed Luis Carlos Galan, a popular presidential candidate. As part of the

crackdown, Colombia renewed its extradition treaty with the United States. The treaty had been nullified by the supreme court in June 1987.

Martinez' extradition is seen as a test of the new arrangement, and of Colombian resolve to truly attack its narcotics industry. He is wanted by the United States in connection with a \$1.2-billion money-laundering operation.

Colombian police are empowered to hold suspects for up to seven working days without charging them. Martinez' seven days were run out Tuesday, authorities said.

Money-laundering, which involves circumventing national currency laws to conceal the source of illicitly raised cash such as drug-peddling profits, is not a criminal offence in Colombia.

Several other reputed traffickers or money-launderers have been arrested in the government offensive. Hundreds of homes, office and apartment buildings, airplanes, cars and other property have been seized from the reputed drug barons.

14 massacred in southern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Fourteen people were massacred in southern Sri Lanka Monday in apparent retaliation for the killing of a woman soldier and her family by leftwing rebels, military sources and residents said Tuesday.

They said 14 bodies were found at the roadside at Bandagama, 25 kilometres from Colombo, with gunshot wounds. Residents said they feared more revenge killings after rebels shot dead the soldier and her family of four in the neighbouring town of Horana.

The residents said they suspected an unidentified gang said to be backed by the security forces might have been responsible for the killings. The

government has denied allegations security forces were involved in revenge killings.

The leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP), which has been waging a two-year struggle to overthrow the government, has threatened to wipe out families of security personnel if they do not quit the force.

Servicepeople have replied in posters across the island, saying that rebel families will meet the same fate. "We will kill 12 of your families for every soldier's family killed," said one unsigned poster.

The killings came as workers returned to their offices on Tuesday after shops and offices closed and people stayed in

doors during a rebel curfew Monday.

The front, which has orchestrated several strikes in workplaces in the past few months and issued death threats to those who do not comply, has called a four-day general strike from Tuesday.

It has asked people to report to work but not to work and instead picket outside their offices.

Officials reported about 30 to 40 per cent attendance in government offices. Bus services were depleted and banks and the port did little work.

Last week about 40 people were killed by gunmen dressed in military-style uniforms in two

separate attacks in southern and north-central areas soon after rebels killed families of security-men, military sources said.

The sources said 11 policemen deserted their posts at two police stations in southern districts while security forces arrested four army deserters in the southern town of Galle Monday.

They said suspected rebels shot dead a former ruling party parliamentarian and four guards, including two soldiers, at her home at Elpitiya in the south Tuesday.

A Buddhist monk and a human rights lawyer were among 10 others killed Monday in separate areas, the sources said.

Taxi drivers profit from Tamil rebellion

By Patrick Cruz
The Associated Press

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — The barefoot taxi drivers in the war-torn Jaffna peninsula conduct a macabre tour for any visitor who cares to see the sights.

"What you want to see? Dead bodies, Indian soldiers, shelled buildings, Tamil fighters?" Kandiah Ponnambalam asks in a singsong voice as he goes into what appears to be a standard sales pitch in negotiating a price for a trip around the peninsula.

"Or do you want to go to a Hindu temple?" the 62-year-old Tamil cabbie adds from his nearly four-decade-old Morris Minor. "A festival is going on. Many people there, maybe something will happen."

For the past 22 months, Jaffna town and the peninsula of the same name have been the flashpoint of the war between Indian peacekeeping troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a rebel militia fighting for an independent nation in predominantly Tamil northeastern Sri Lanka.

Indian troops were supposed to disarm the Tigers and other rebel groups under a July 29, 1987, peace accord that aimed to give Tamils limited auton-

omy. All the rebels initially accepted the peace plan, but the Tigers reneged and began attacking the Indian soldiers.

New Delhi and Colombo say about 5,000 people have died in northeastern Sri Lanka since Indian troops arrived the day after the accord was signed. Militants and local leaders claim the figure is 10,000.

One effect of the fighting has been an escalation of cab fares. A 30-kilometre trip around the peninsula costs the equivalent of \$30 to \$50. A similar trip in any other part of the country costs the equivalent of \$9.

The taxis, an assortment of black British-built Morris Minors, Austins and a stray Japanese Toyota or Delica van, are the only way to get around the peninsula or go to the airport.

Indian soldiers at checkpoints appear to recognise most of Jaffna's 20 or so taxi drivers and wave them on after a perfunctory check of the vehicle and occupants. Ponnambalam says his service can include using backroads that avoid checkpoints.

Local residents rarely use cabs. Bicycles are the most common form of transport in this small town, although some people own motorcycles.

Strikes over language law engulf Moldavia

MOSCOW (R) — Strikes by Russian-speaking workers spread across Moldavia Tuesday as the local parliament met to consider a new language law that would reduce the status of Russian in the southwestern Soviet republic.

A journalist told Reuters from the largely Russian city of Tiraspol that protest strikes by ethnic Russian workers had spread throughout the republic, increasing tensions with the ethnic Romanian majority.

"There are strikes all over Moldavia, even more than there were yesterday," the journalist at the newspaper Sovetskaya Moldavia said. "Thousands and thousands of Russian workers are involved."

He said workers had downed tools at 45 factories in Tiraspol, 27 in nearby Bender and all those in Rybnitsa. Seven enterprises were on strike in the Moldavian capital of Kishinev.

Russian-speakers oppose a proposed language law before the Moldavian Supreme Soviet, or parliament, that would give official status to the Moldavian — or Romanian — language and revert to the use of Latin, instead of Cyrillic, letters.

The unrest in Moldavia, which borders Romania, followed attacks in the Moscow press against "separatist" sentiment in the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said protests in Lithuania

had become increasingly hostile towards the Soviet army, with calls for an end to the "Russian empire" and demands for withdrawal of the "occupying forces."

Reports in the Communist Party daily Pravda condemned "separatism and even an anti-Soviet, nationalistic, chauvinistic mood," in the Baltics.

The attacks followed a Kremlin broadside Saturday against "nationalist hysteria" in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia after up to two million people demonstrated last week against a Nazi-Soviet deal 50 years ago which assigned the three formerly independent states to the Soviet sphere of influence.

Communist Party leaders in the Baltic republics sought to avert Kremlin anger Monday by issuing statements supporting its criticism of the nationalist unrest.

Continuing Moscow's attack, Pravda cited what it said was a 1940 article reprinted in a U.S. magazine saying the Baltics' decision to join the Soviet Union in 1940 had been taken freely, with no interference from the Soviet army.

But Virgilijus Cepaitas, a secretary of the Lithuanian popular movement Sajudis, dismissed

the article as "simple propaganda from the Stalin era."

"These articles have been printed for 50 years running," he told Reuters from Vilnius. "We are familiar with the text because they were used more than once under (Josef) Stalin and (Leonid) Brezhnev."

The statements by party leaders in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania tried to steer a course between Moscow's demands and those of their own increasingly restive peoples.

Estonian party leader Vaino Valjas, in a statement on local television and radio, pledged continued loyalty to Moscow and criticised anti-Soviet demonstrations. He said the local party renounced any calls for Estonian secession.

"The fate of the Estonian people, of all those living in Estonia, is tied to the success of the regeneration under way in the entire Soviet Union," he said, according to a partial text carried by TASS.

The official news agency carried a similar statement from the Latvian party.

Estonian journalist Tarmu Tammer said the Estonian leader also accused conservative forces in the republic of provoking tensions and gave an assurance that the party would not abandon its declared support for autonomy and the promotion of the Estonian language, culture and heritage.

Opposition slams Gandhi over nation-wide strike

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian opposition accused Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government Tuesday of planning to thwart its national strike with violence.

The government denied the charge but many Indians appeared to be preparing to stay at home during Wednesday's one-day strike called to back demands for Gandhi's resignation over allegations of corruption in major arms deals.

Transport is expected to halt and fears of violence are widespread.

Major cities, whether controlled by Gandhi's Congress (I) Party or the opposition, prepared for the strike with heavy deployments of security forces.

State governments arrested people they considered likely provocateurs.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi, leader of one of the parties calling the strike, said his government had put more than 4,000 people under preventive custody to head off possible violence in the southern state.

At his news conference he did not say who was arrested officials said most were Congress supporters.

Karunanidhi, who humiliated Gandhi in state elections in January, said he had called extra para-military police into Tamil Nadu and was determined to suppress any violence, whether caused by backers of the strike or its opponents.

He said state employees should work but would have to make their own arrangements to get there. Asked if he would be in the office, Karunanidhi replied with a smile: "I will be on strike."

In New Delhi, opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh accused Gandhi of ordering Congress youths to use violence to disrupt the strike and of spending tens of millions of rupees to thwart it.

"The government has issued instructions for the youth Congress to create situations of violence," Singh alleged. Opposition officials charge that Congress would try to create violence in states it did not rule to embarrass

their governments ahead of elections Gandhi must call by the end of the year.

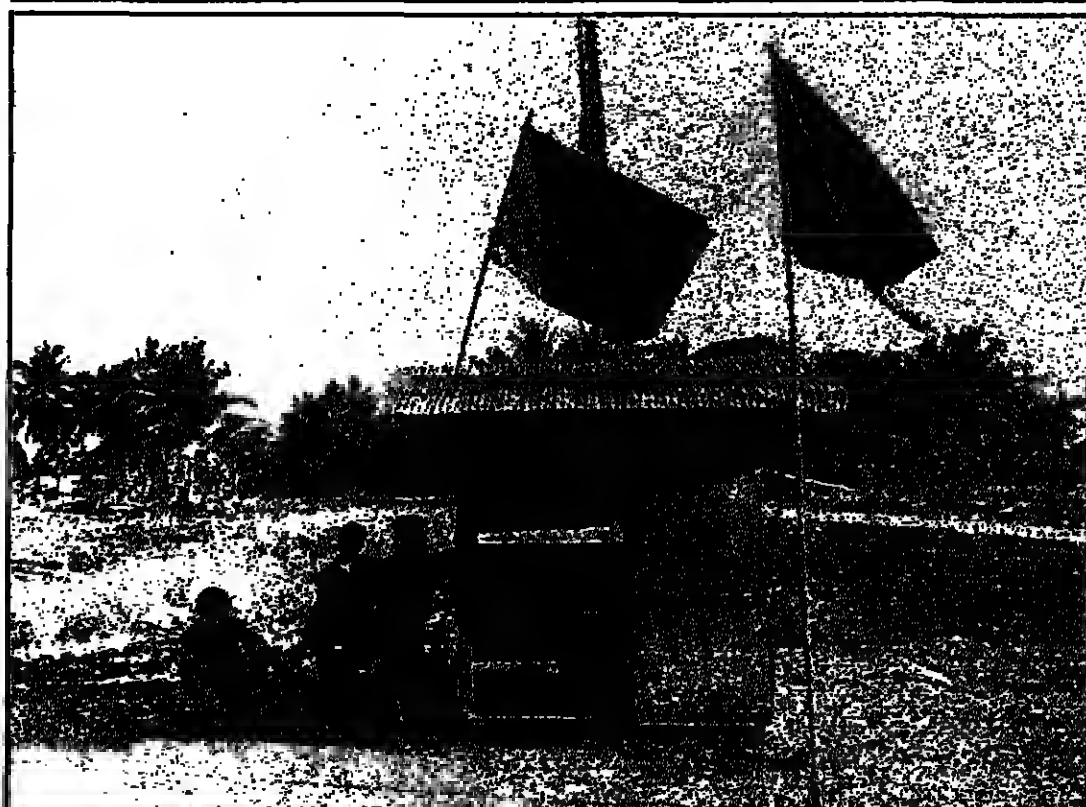
Government officials dismissed the accusations, saying it was more likely that the opposition would cause violence by trying to stop people going to work.

The Congress Party issued a call to supporters to avoid violence during the strike, called by the opposition following its resignation en masse from parliament at the end of July over the corruption issue.

The government has ridiculed the strike, saying it expressed the frustration of a still disunited opposition unable to topple Gandhi by democratic means.

It has appealed to people to ignore the strike, told government workers that joining the strike would be a breach of their rules of conduct and offered hotel rooms and food to employees who might have difficulty getting to work.

"This is unprecedented in Indian history. How much is this going to cost the exchequer," said Singh at a news conference.



Members of a people's militia formed with Vietnamese help man a "checkpoint" in Cambodia (file photo)

U.S. rejects U.N. monitoring of Vietnamese troop pullout

PARIS (R) — The United States Tuesday ruled out United Nations monitoring of next month's promised withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia unless a full peace accord was negotiated beforehand.

A U.S. spokesman said that even if the pro-Vietnamese Cambodian government dropped its opposition to a U.N. monitoring force, Washington and other backers of Cambodian resistance groups would not support such a partial step.

"There will be substantial opposition to that," said the senior U.S. official, who asked not to be named.

He was briefing

19-nation Paris conference on Cambodia neared its scheduled end Wednesday without agreement, after a month of discussions, on a peace and power-sharing pact between the government installed by Vietnam and guerrilla groups that have opposed it for 10 years.

Vietnam, which invaded Cambodia in 1978, has said its last soldier will quit the country by Sept. 26 whether or not a peace accord is reached. Outside observers say that without a ceasefire, fighting is likely to intensify.

But Hanoi and Phnom Penh have so far rejected a U.N. monitoring force on the grounds that the world body favours the guer-

rilla coalition, which occupies Cambodia's U.N. seat.

"The (U.S.) position is very clear. We oppose a partial arrangement. We would be glad to see the U.N. there," the U.S. official said. But he said the U.N. itself believed there had to be a comprehensive solution first.

"Their own attitude is that without a political authority (set up by a peace pact) it isn't going to work anyway... (Cambodian Prime Minister) Hun Sen is not a legitimate authority," he said.

The U.S. official said Cambodia might be entering "a period of some months of testing of the military balance on the ground."

Marriage, no; prosecution, yes

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)

— A court in Guyana rejected a 12-year-old girl's request to marry the man who got her pregnant, and instead ruled to investigate him for unlawful sexual conduct, a newspaper said. High Court Judge Lennox Penny threw out the girl's petition on the grounds that her attempt to secure a favourable ruling was a gimmick to avoid prosecution of Sceraj Seepersaud for carnal knowledge of a juvenile, the state-owned Chronicle newspaper said. The judge instead ordered police to investigate the relationship between Seepersaud, in his 20s, and the girl, who live in rural Berbice county in eastern Guyana. Seepersaud told the court he wanted to marry the girl. She produced a doctor's certificate showing that she was six weeks pregnant. She told the court she was aware that due to her age, she must get the court's permission to marry, since even her parents' approval would not be enough.

Computer hackers challenged

TOKYO (R) — Japan's telecom-

munications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), has offered a one million-yen (\$6,900) prize to any hacker who can beat its coded communications system within two years. "We do not think anyone can decipher the system," an NTT spokesman said. "We do not mean to provoke hackers but want them to point out defects, if any, in the system." The Feal-N system is designed to stop hackers — experts who tap computer systems illegally — stealing information.

Computers break up over McCartney

OSLO (R) — Norway's post office computer has crashed, overwhelmed by the huge demand for tickets to a concert by former Beatle Paul McCartney, who will open his first world tour in 13 years here next month. A spokesman for the concert organisers said Tuesday that all 5,700 tickets for the Sept. 26 concert had sold out within hours of going on sale Monday. The post office had planned to sell them all over Norway so that everyone would have a fair chance. But its computer system collapsed just minutes after the sale started. Sales were then continued through ticket booths in six of Norway's main towns.

Nostalgic canteen returned to owner

LONGVIEW, Washington (AP) — The Reverend Blankenship left the U.S. navy in 1946, but the Defence Department did not forget: it tracked him down to return the canteen he left decades ago on a South Pacific island beach. A couple found the canteen while touring World War II battle sites in the New Georgia islands near New Guinea and Guadalcanal. Blankenship's name, rank, serial number and blood type were etched into the back of the rusty canteen. The finders — Pete and Betty Medley of Shelby, Ohio — assumed that Blankenship had been killed. They contacted U.S. Senator John Glenn and asked him to help locate Blankenship's next of kin. Through the Defence Department, they learned he was very much alive. The canteen arrived in the mail last week, and Blankenship recalled he had left it and his other gear after being shot in the leg during a shore mission. Blankenship said he immediately called the Medleys after the Defence Department called him about his canteen, and hopes someday to meet them.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	10	16	44 Windy
ATHENS	21	30	24 Clear
BAHRAIN	31	38	30 Clear
BANGKOK	26	33	31 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	05	11	18 Clear
CARACAS	21	30	31 Clear
CHICAGO	21	29	23 Clear
COPENHAGEN	10	16	42 Clear
FRANKFURT	11	18	34 Clear
GENOVA	11	18	34 Clear
HONG KONG	26	32	31 Clear
ISTANBUL	20	28	28 Clear
LONDON	12	14	19 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	17	26	29 Clear
MADRID	17	23	30 Clear
MECCA	28	32	42 Cloudy
MONTREAL	03	15	21 Cloudy
MOSCOW	13	15	16 Clear
NEW DELHI	24	32	32 Clear
NEW YORK	18	26	27 Cloudy
PARIS	11	18	23 Clear
ROME	23	30	28 Clear
SYDNEY	11	18	24 Clear
TOKYO	24	32	30 Clear
VIENNA	13	18	21 Clear